

C A M P A I G N F O R ACCOUNTABILITY

September 13, 2016

BY FACSIMILE: 202-514-4001

The Honorable Michael E. Horowitz
Inspector General
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania, NW
Room 4706
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Horowitz:

Campaign for Accountability (“CfA”) respectfully requests you commence an immediate investigation into leaks by the FBI regarding the identity of Paul Combetta, a witness in the investigation of Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton’s use of a private email address.

On September 8, 2016, the *New York Times* published an article revealing for the first time that the Department of Justice had granted immunity to Mr. Combetta, a computer specialist who worked with the Platte River Networks, in exchange for answering questions about Secretary Clinton’s use of a private email server. According to the *Times*, the FBI summarized Mr. Combetta’s testimony in a publicly released report, but had redacted his name. Nevertheless, a “law enforcement official and others familiar with the case identified the employee as Mr. Combetta. **They spoke on the condition of anonymity because they did not want to be identified discussing matters that were supposed to be confidential.**”¹ (emphasis added)

As a direct result of this improper leak, Mr. Combetta has now been subpoenaed by Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT), chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to appear before the committee on Tuesday. Further, Rep. Chaffetz has asked the Justice Department to investigate whether Mr. Combetta obstructed justice.²

Evidently, an employee or employees of the FBI have taken it upon themselves to leak information that was never intended to be public, apparently with the specific intent to assist Republicans in Congress – and perhaps also Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump – continue to find new ways to publicize Mrs. Clinton’s misuse of her private email account and server.

¹ Adam Goldman and Michael S. Schmidt, Justice Dep. Granted Immunity to Specialist Who Deleted Hillary Clinton’s Emails, *New York Times*, September 8, 2016.

² *Id.*

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It appears individuals within the FBI are dissatisfied with the decision not to prosecute Mrs. Clinton, despite the assertion by FBI Director James Comey that “there really wasn’t a prosecutable case.”³ But separate and apart from any improper conduct by Mrs. Clinton, the FBI’s foray into the presidential election should concern all Americans as it undermines the Bureau’s credibility to lasting effect. Our law enforcement system should not be used as a tool of political partisans. Moreover, it is ironic that the FBI is frequently called on to investigate leaks at other government agencies. How can the Bureau be entrusted with such inquiries when its own employees engage in similarly prohibited activities?

The Office of the Inspector General should investigate this obvious misconduct by the FBI. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Anne Weismann
Executive Director

³ Rebecca Shabad, FBI Director Comey Defends Decision Not to Prosecute Hillary Clinton Over Email Servers, *CBS News*, September 8, 2016.