

From: Prieto, Jeffrey (he/him/his) <Prieto.Jeffrey@epa.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2024 12:57 PM

To: All OGC and ORC <All_OGC_and_ORC@epa.gov>

Subject: Message from the General Counsel



Dear Colleagues,

I've written to you in the past when members of our team have departed and used the word "bittersweet" so, while seemingly unoriginal, I cannot think of a better word to describe my feelings in announcing my own departure from the Agency and the Office of General Counsel. Leading this office and serving this Administration and Administrator has been the honor of a lifetime and the pinnacle of my career. I am excited to move back home to L.A. and spend time with my family, however, I know I will deeply miss being a part of this incredible group of people.

I will look back at my three years in OGC with great pride. We have accomplished so much together to advance this Agency's mission. When I took this position, I had three goals: 1) advancing the Administration's and Administrator's environmental justice agenda, 2) defending EPA's regulatory efforts, and 3) supporting OGC's incredible career staff. I am proud of our efforts and achievements in each of these three areas.

While I will certainly miss the work, mostly I will miss the people. I value public service and what every one of you have dedicated your careers to achieve. I've not been shy in saying that this is the best environmental law firm in the country, from the attorneys to the amazing administrative professional staff, I learn something new every day. I'll miss your counsel, but I'll miss being part of this extraordinary team and my daily interactions with you all as people and colleagues even more.

I want to reiterate that the Immediate Office political and career team is an amazing group of individuals. Their tireless dedication combined with incredible legal acumen is a combination rarely seen. Dimple Chaudhary will assume the role of Acting General Counsel upon my departure. Dimple is a brilliant attorney and unparalleled leader. I know I am leaving the Office in good hands on all fronts and there will be no stopping as you continue to advance the Agency's mission and defend our regulatory efforts.

I also want to thank Administrator Michael Regan. I will forever be grateful of his support of OGC, and of me personally. I believe his tenure represents the most consequential period of the Agency's history; I am humbled by OGC's significant role and my small part.

I will be leaving OGC effective September 20th. Please know that while I may be leaving OGC, I will not be leaving all of you; my open-door policy and love of coffee will persist, just from the other coastline. L.A. is a great coffee city! Please reach out if you are ever in L.A. or if you would like to chat virtually.

Sincerely,

Jeff

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