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The Environmental Justice Scorecard has been updated. Phase Two of the Environmental Justice Scorecard was released on July 24, 2024.

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[Scorecard](#)

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Department of Justice

Approximately 40 office(s), Numerous location(s), and 115,000 employees in Fiscal Year 2023

The [mission](#) of the Department of Justice (DOJ or the Department) is to uphold the rule of law, to keep our country safe, and to protect civil rights. The [Justice Department](#) maintains field offices in all states and territories across the United States and in more than 50 countries around the world.

DOJ developed a [Comprehensive Environmental Justice Enforcement Strategy](#).

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(CEJES) that provides a set of principles and actions to guide and continue its work to advance environmental justice through the enforcement of federal laws, consistent with the agency's mission.

[assistance](#) ↗

These principles and actions ensure that the entire Justice Department is vigorously and transparently working to secure environmental justice with the full set of legal tools at its disposal, in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency and other federal agencies, and in communication with the communities most affected by the underlying violations of federal law. Four of the DOJ components highlighted in the CEJES roadmap to advance environmental justice are:

The Environment and Natural Resources Division

(ENRD), the [Civil Rights Division](#), the [Community Relations Service](#) (CRS), and the [U.S. Attorneys' Offices](#).

To learn more about environmental justice at DOJ, please visit DOJ's [environmental justice website](#).

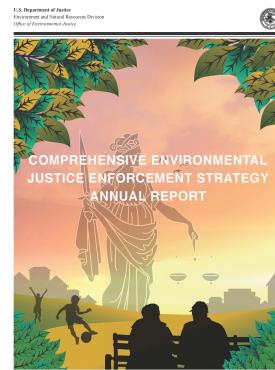
Some examples of well-known DOJ offices, bureaus, or agencies are:

- The Environment and Natural Resources Division
- The Civil Rights Division
- The Community Relations Service

Progress on Advancing Environmental Justice

This section demonstrates key progress on advancing environmental justice at the Department of Justice in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

Key Highlights ([show less ^](#))



Pursuit of Timely and Effective Remedies in Enforcement Matters

Photo credit:
DOJ

The Department incorporated more mitigation and

Addressing the Jackson, Mississippi Drinking Water Crisis

In November 2022, Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD) attorneys filed a Safe Drinking Water Act lawsuit on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). ENRD negotiated an interim order with city and state officials to name a court-appointed manager and begin to stabilize the Jackson, Mississippi drinking water system. DOJ's Office of Environmental Justice worked with the Department's Southern District of Mississippi U.S. Attorney's Office, Community Relations Service, and ENRD's case team, along with EPA, to build a community outreach strategy for Jackson, Mississippi.

Learn more 

Action to Address Illegal Dumping in the City of Houston, Texas

In June 2023, DOJ secured a

appropriate settlement tools such as Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) into settlements. SEPs are environmentally beneficial projects that are strongly connected to the alleged violations and are not otherwise required by law. These environmentally beneficial projects help remedy the harm caused by violations of environmental law in the

settlement agreement in its investigation into the City of Houston's response to illegal dumping in Black and Latino neighborhoods. The agreement establishes a three-year period of federal monitoring; data reporting obligations; enhanced community outreach with impacted neighborhoods, including engagement with residents with limited English proficiency; consideration of additional actions to combat commercial sources of illegal dumping and reduce restrictions for residents seeking to use waste depositories; and a federal civil rights training program for specified city employees. The agreement builds upon the city's March 2023 One Clean Houston initiative, a comprehensive plan to address pervasive illegal dumping and its negative impacts on the health, safety and quality of life of Houston residents.

Learn more 

Executives Charged in

community where the harm occurred. For example, in May 2023, DOJ and EPA announced a Clean Air Act settlement with BP Products to secure important air toxic controls at its Whiting Refinery in Indiana, a \$40 million civil penalty, and a SEP. BP Products committed to spend millions of dollars to retrofit and replace old,

Connection with Concealing Inaccurately Low Lead Test Results

In April 2023, three former executives for a medical device company were charged with conspiracy, wire fraud, and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) violations for allegedly concealing a device malfunction that allegedly produced inaccurately low lead test results for tens of thousands of children and other patients. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there is no safe level of lead in the blood. Additionally, young children and pregnant mothers from low-income households living in public housing are the most vulnerable to lead exposure. DOJ alleged that these defendants deceived customers and the FDA about the reliability of medical tests that detected lead levels. DOJ asserted that by doing so, defendants endangered the health and lives of incredibly vulnerable victims.

[Learn more](#) 

polluting diesel engines in four frontline communities, with input from citizen advisory committees.

[Learn more](#) 

Pursuit of Tribal Environmental Justice

In July 2023, the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington hosted a Federal/Tribal Regional Summit in Spokane, Washington, alongside the Environment and Natural Resources Division and the Office of Tribal Justice. The summit built on a November 2022 Tribal Listening Session in Washington, DC and a national Federal/Tribal Summit in Columbia, South Carolina in early 2023. The summits are part of a strategy to work with Tribal government representatives, including technical and legal experts, to explore how the Department can identify and prioritize affirmative litigation involving Tribal environmental justice issues.

Learn more 

Joint Trainings and Capacity Building Efforts with State and Local Partners

In August 2023, the Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD) and the Office of Environmental Justice hosted a one-hour webinar for state attorneys general offices to discuss the importance of community outreach as part of an effective environmental justice strategy. The Community Relations Service and ENRD's Environmental Enforcement and Environmental Crimes Sections also presented.

Environmental and Civil Rights Protection

Federal agencies are advancing environmental justice by carrying out their responsibilities under the law to identify and address disproportionate and adverse public health and environmental, climate-related, and cumulative impacts on communities with environmental justice concerns. Agencies are working to ensure that all communities experience the protection of our country's bedrock environmental laws. The following information reflects some of the environmental and civil rights work at the Department of Justice has done in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Environmental Justice [\(show less ^\)](#)

This section demonstrates progress on environmental protections, such as the National Environmental Policy Act, at the Department of Justice in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

DOJ litigating components and U.S. Attorneys' offices typically encounter environmental justice concerns in the context of litigation over other agencies' NEPA-related actions. However, DOJ's

What is NEPA?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to consider and disclose

Bureau of Prisons (BOP) directly addresses environmental justice in its NEPA regulations that apply to new and existing BOP facilities as well as the closing of existing BOP institutions. Environmental justice is a consideration noted in DOJ's Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) instructions for completing an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement. DOJ's DEA has no ongoing projects or litigation involving environmental justice. DOJ's BOP NEPA-related documents analyze environmental justice impacts. To date, no mitigation measures have been recommended or implemented for BOP actions.

the environmental health and community impacts of certain decisions or actions before taking them.

[Learn more](#) 

Training

- **1** agency training(s) on how to consider environmental justice considerations during NEPA reviews
- **6** employees trained on how to consider environmental justice during NEPA reviews

For example, for employees who work on NEPA, DOJ's Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD) provides training annually to attorneys and staff on environmental justice considerations under NEPA, for purposes of defending agency decisions in federal litigation. For example, in October 2022, ENRD

conducted environmental justice training for its new attorneys joining the Division through the Attorney General's Honors Program. For attendees who work on NEPA, the training covered NEPA and environmental justice.

Environmental or Health Protection ([show less ^](#))

This section demonstrates progress by the Department of Justice on environmental or health protection that also advances environmental justice in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

Judicial enforcement of EPA and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) lead paint regulations can be an important tool for protecting people, particularly children, from harmful lead exposure. ENRD has discussed enforcement priorities and case development resources with EPA, HUD, and the U.S. Attorneys' offices. ENRD has also discussed ways that the agencies can collaborate to use a whole-of-government approach to share resources when policy goals are aligned but resources may be limited. The Civil Rights Division set a goal to develop a framework for addressing lead exposure in communities with environmental justice concerns through

coordination with ENRD, EPA, and HUD. The framework will establish a process for collaboration and employing legal authorities the Civil Rights Division has for identifying adversely impacted communities.

Lead Paint Enforcement in the Chicago, Illinois Area

In January 2023, DOJ's Environment and Natural Resources Division and EPA secured remedies that advance environmental justice in the Chicago area, through settlements with Logan Square Aluminum Supply Inc. The settlements resolved alleged violations of the federal Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting regulations at renovation projects performed by Logan Square and its contractors. As part of its settlements, Logan Square agreed to perform \$2 million of lead-based paint abatement work in lower income properties, focused on communities with a higher incidence of childhood lead poisoning.

Lead Paint Enforcement in the Southern District of New York

In September 2023, the Southern District of New York U.S. Attorney's Office and the Environmental Protection Agency secured a settlement against Apex Building Company for violating lead paint safety regulations. The settlement requires Apex to take steps to mitigate potential harms caused by its conduct and pay a civil penalty.

Lead Paint Enforcement in the Southern District of Indiana

In December 2022, the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Inspector General, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Southern District of Indiana U.S. Attorney's Office secured a 16-month sentence for a contractor who violated federal lead paint safety laws when renovating low- and median income housing in Indianapolis, Indiana.

CIVIL RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ([show less ^](#))

This section demonstrates progress on civil rights related to environmental justice, for example, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or relevant laws other than Title VI of the Civil Rights Act at the Department of Justice in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

In November 2022, the Attorney General [issued](#) a [memorandum](#) on “Strengthening the Federal Government’s Commitment to Language Access.” The memorandum directed federal agencies to provide updated language access plans within 180 days. The memorandum asked the Civil Rights Division to work with federal agencies to support these improved language access efforts, led by the Federal Coordination and Compliance Section under its coordination responsibilities under Executive Orders 12250 and 13166, and with assistance from the Department’s Language Access Coordinator. In August 2023, the Department subsequently [released](#) its updated Department-wide [Language Access Plan](#) to help ensure that all individuals, regardless of language used, have access to and are able to fully participate in the Department’s programs, activities, and services.

Title VI and Environmental Justice ([show less ^](#))

This section demonstrates progress on civil rights related to environmental justice, such as under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, at the Department of Justice in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

DOJ's Federal Coordination and Compliance Section (Section) implements Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and related authorities that prohibit discrimination by recipients of federal funds on the basis of race, national origin (including language access), sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), and other bases. DOJ's Title VI jurisdiction is limited to recipients of federal financial assistance from DOJ, which includes law enforcement agencies, state courts, or correctional facilities. The Section plays a

central role in enforcement, regulation, interagency coordination and oversight, and technical assistance.

- **2** open Title VI investigation(s) or compliance review(s) related to environmental justice
 - **2** closed Title VI investigation(s) or resolution agreement(s) related to environmental justice
- · ·

What is Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964?

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 requires that no person be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to

discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance on account of race, color, or

Training

- **1** agency training(s) on Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and environmental justice
- **60** employee(s) trained on Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and environmental justice

national origin.

Centering Environmental Justice in Decision-Making

This section demonstrates progress on community engagement (e.g., partnerships with non-federal organizations, technical assistance, and public processes) and partnership and consultation with Tribal Nations at the Department of Justice in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

In FY 2023, the Department took important steps to identify areas of environmental injustice of greatest concern to impacted communities. The Department increased outreach and listening sessions, developed case-specific community outreach plans, and increased coordination with the Community Relations Service. Through these steps, the Department increased the public's familiarity with federal environmental laws, enforcement processes, the roles of various government agencies, the available remedies to address environmental harms, and how to report concerns about polluting activities or

potential violations of law.

The Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) worked with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Community Relations Service (CRS), the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Mississippi, and DOJ's Environment and Natural Resources Division's Law and Policy and Environmental Enforcement Sections to build an outreach strategy for Jackson, Mississippi in support of the Safe Drinking Water Act enforcement action in that city. In Cahokia Heights, Illinois, CRS worked to help address the needs of local communities impacted by environmental pollution. Staff consulted with ENRD and EPA on developing an outreach plan to ensure the necessary information reached all members of the diverse community. At a Superfund site in Idaho, CRS facilitated a dialogue between community members and the EPA to discuss local concerns, available EPA grant programs, and technical assistance.

Technical Assistance ([show less ^](#))

- **2** technical assistance outreach event(s) to improve access and information about federal programs related to environmental justice

Spokane, Washington Federal/Tribal Regional Summit Provided Information on Federal Grants and Technical Assistance

In July 2023, the Environment and Natural Resources Division, the Office of Tribal Justice, and the Eastern District of Washington U.S. Attorney's Office held a Federal/Tribal Regional Summit that included training by the Department of Housing and Urban Development on lead-safe housing and affordable housing grant resources for Tribal governments and communities.

[Learn more](#) 

Public Processes ([show less ^](#))

- **Over 25** public process(es) related to environmental justice, e.g., requests for

information or listening sessions,
including:

Listening Sessions in Jackson, Mississippi as Part of a Safe Drinking Water Act Enforcement Action

Examples of outreach conducted include a December 2022 listening session with community leaders to provide an enforcement update and gather input on the impacts of the water crisis and seven in-person events in March 2023 with almost 180 community leaders from a range of stakeholder groups.

[Learn more](#) 

Listening Session in Lowndes County, Alabama

The Civil Rights Division hosted a listening session in Lowndes County, Alabama regarding the Interim Resolution Agreement between the Department of Justice, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Alabama Department of Public Health.

[Learn more](#) 

Outreach in the Southern District of Indiana

In August 2023, the Southern District of Indiana U.S. Attorney's Office conducted a public outreach session with local and national environmental and community advocacy organizations regarding environmental enforcement.

Partnership and Consultation with Tribal Nations ([show less ^](#))

This section demonstrates progress on Tribal partnerships and consultations at the Department of Justice, including steps that agencies take to respect Tribal sovereignty and ensure government-to-government consultation on federal policies in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

In FY 2023, DOJ updated its [Tribal Consultation policy](#). DOJ will consult with Federally Recognized Tribes before formulating or implementing policies that have Tribal implications. The term “policies” includes: (1) regulations or regulatory policies; (2) proposed legislation; (3) decisions regarding the establishment of federal standards; and (4) other policies for which the Department determines consultation is appropriate and practicable. The term “policies” does not include matters that are the subject of investigation, anticipated or active litigation, or settlement negotiations. It also does not include individual grants or contracts. All decisions regarding whether and how to conduct a consultation, or whether a given policy or topic has Tribal implications, will be coordinated with the Department’s Office of Tribal Justice.

- **5** Tribal listening sessions and other engagements related to environmental

justice

For example, the Office of Tribal Justice spoke about environmental justice at the March 2023 Midwest Association of Sovereign Tribes meeting. In November 2022, DOJ hosted a hybrid nationwide listening session to seek initial Tribal input on how the Department could better help Tribes secure and protect water and treaty rights. Based on participant feedback, DOJ planned follow-up summits in FY 2023 to get more information. The FY 2023 environmental justice Tribal summits were held in South Carolina, [Washington](#), and [Minnesota](#). Federal and Tribal representatives discussed how to improve litigation and settlement outcomes in DOJ cases involving Tribal water rights adjudications and treaty rights. The regional summits helped DOJ further identify, refine, and develop ways for the federal government and Tribal governments to obtain outcomes that will better address the diverse environmental threats to water, land, fish, plants, and game resources from pollution and climate change.

Training

- **1** agency training(s) on Tribal Consultation or working with Tribes and Indigenous Peoples to advance environmental justice
- **23 DOJ Components** employees

trained on Tribal Consultation or working with Tribes and Indigenous Peoples to advance environmental justice

For example, following the update of DOJ's consultation policy at the beginning of FY 2023, DOJ's Office of Tribal Justice did broad outreach across the Department in December 2022 to educate points of contact across components on the consultation policy, including recent changes.

Institutionalizing Environmental Justice

This section demonstrates progress to institutionalize environmental justice at the Department of Justice including to implement [Executive Order 14008](#) and [Executive Order 14096](#), in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

Overview

Through DOJ's first-ever [Office of Environmental Justice](#) (OEJ), established in May 2022, the Office engages all of DOJ's bureaus, components, and offices in the collective pursuit of environmental justice. In August 2023, the Department's OEJ submitted a report to the Deputy Attorney General evaluating

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DOJ Civil
Rights

implementation of the Department's [Comprehensive Environmental Justice Enforcement Strategy](#). (CEJES). In October 2023, OEJ publicly [released](#) this first-ever [Comprehensive Environmental Justice Enforcement Strategy Annual Report](#), sharing the progress the Department made (through August 3, 2023) in advancing environmental justice under the Strategy. This included efforts of components across the Department (such as ENRD, the Civil Rights Division, and the Civil Division) and OEJ. The report details the case-specific work and related activities done to implement each of the CEJES' four principles, which ensure that the Department's environmental justice efforts are transparent and consistent across Divisions. In addition, DOJ continues to advance the objectives outlined in its [Fiscal Year 2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#), which includes "[Objective 3.5](#) : Advance Environmental Justice and Tackle the Climate Crisis," under Strategic Goal 3: Protect Civil Rights.

- **150-200** staff who work on environmental justice, either in a full- or part-time capacity
- **Numerous** new or strengthened office(s) or program(s) on environmental justice

Division

Wastewater Disposal and Management in Lowndes County, Alabama

In May 2023, the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services (HHS) [reached](#) an [interim resolution agreement](#) in the Civil Rights Division's first-ever Title VI environmental justice investigation into the Alabama Department of Public

Training

- **19** agency training(s) for staff on environmental justice
- **Over 700** employee(s) trained on environmental justice

For example, with the development of trainings and other environmental justice materials, the Department has engaged staff through presentations and webinar discussions. For example, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) held its first-ever environmental crimes conference, which trained 100 agents and analysts from around the country. The Environment and Natural Resources Division's Environmental Crimes Section and the FBI provided instructors who covered environmental justice, including a case study, and other topics. The training helped expand FBI's case work and participation in several new taskforces.

Health and the Lowndes County Health Department in Lowndes County, Alabama.

[Learn more](#) 

Advancing Environmental Justice Policy ([show less](#) ^)

- **Has** issued or updated policy, guidance, or directives related to environmental justice (internal or external)

DOJ Language Access Plan

Timely and accurate communication with the public is essential to DOJ's mission to uphold the rule of law, to keep our country safe, and to protect civil rights. The DOJ Language Access Plan reinforces the Department's commitment to advancing equity for all, including historically underserved individuals with limited English proficiency, through meaningful language access to DOJ benefits, information, and services.

Learn more 

- Over the past four years **is working** to create an Environmental Justice Strategic Plan pursuant to [Executive Order 14096](#)

Advancing Environmental Justice Tools or Resources

([show less ^](#))

- **93** tool(s) or resources that advance environmental justice, including access to health, environmental or other impacts, such as:

U.S. Attorneys' Offices Community Reporting Systems

93 of the United States Attorneys' offices now have environmental justice community reporting systems to improve community members' ability to inform local government. The reporting procedures encourage citizens to report their concerns about public health, safety, or environmental matters to United States Attorneys' offices and partner agencies such as EPA.

Advancing Institutional Partnerships or Federal Advisory Committees

([show less ^](#))

- **2** new or strengthened internal

agency working group(s), committee(s), or partnership(s) to advance environmental justice, or new federal advisory committee(s) on environmental justice

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Internal Partnerships Help Integrate Environmental Justice into its Work

In FY 2023, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) established an internal working group as a network for agents and analysts looking at environmental justice cases in the regions their field offices cover. The FBI hosted a quarterly speaker series to expose its workforce to a variety of environmental issues. It also began actively partnering with ENRD's Environmental Crimes Section and EPA's Criminal Investigation Division to conduct regular environmental justice meetings, looking for new opportunities for criminal enforcement.

District of New Mexico U.S. Attorney's Office Joins Environmental Crimes Task Force

The District of New Mexico U.S. Attorney's Office launched its website and joined the Environmental Crimes Task Force the state of New Mexico launched, which is comprised of many federal and state partners.

Learn more 

District of Utah U.S. Attorney's Office Environmental Justice and Public Reporting Initiative

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Utah announced a new initiative focusing on [Environmental Justice and Public Reporting](#).

Learn more 

Interagency Collaboration (show less ^)

DOJ's Role in Environmental Justice Initiatives

DOJ participates in the [White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council](#) (IAC), which President Biden established in 2021 and expanded in 2023 through executive orders on tackling the climate crisis and environmental justice.

Effective communication and collaboration among federal agencies are essential to the whole-of-government effort to advance environmental justice. The Civil Rights Division gathered key staff from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the Department of Transportation to determine the best approach for communicating to recipients of federal agency funding that compliance with civil rights laws is required in addition to compliance with environmental laws.

DOJ also coordinated with EPA and other federal agencies that have regulatory, enforcement, cleanup, or restoration authorities that can contribute to providing timely and effective remedies for environmental violations, contamination, and injury to natural resources in overburdened communities. For example, ENRD continued to

collaborate with HUD and EPA surrounding lead paint and on areas of mutual concern.

The Department of Justice worked side-by-side with other federal agencies to advance a whole of government approach to environmental justice, including:

Whole-of-Government Approach to Enhance Lead Paint Enforcement and Enforcement of Housing Condition Laws

The Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD) has discussed enforcement priorities and case development resources with EPA, HUD, and the U.S. Attorneys' offices. ENRD also discussed ways agencies can collaborate to use a whole-of-government approach to share resources when policy goals are aligned but resources may be limited. For more information, please visit DOJ's [Comprehensive Environmental Justice Annual Report](#) for example settlements resulting in important remedies.

Southern District of Indiana U.S. Attorney's Office Interagency Collaboration

The Southern District of Indiana established regular standing meetings with HUD, EPA Office of Inspector General, and other agencies with environmentally focused initiatives to develop civil and criminal environmental cases.

Federal Bureau of Investigation Interagency Taskforce Collaborations are part of DOJ's Comprehensive Environmental Justice Enforcement Strategy

To expand its case portfolio, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) strengthened relationships with federal, state, and local partners through working groups and [taskforces](#), and trained over 600 FBI employees. The FBI joined or formed ten new environmental crime taskforces/working groups, including the

[taskforce in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands](#)

. ENRD's Environmental Crimes Section has also worked with the FBI on training and increasing visibility related to environmental crimes investigations. Overall, these efforts have contributed to an increase in operational successes. One example is a case involving [indictments](#) for dumping construction waste into the wetlands of Puerto Rico (District of Puerto Rico, ENRD, and FBI).

[Return to top](#)**Contact**

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