December 14, 2015—Sent via U.S. mail

Dear [Name]:

This responds to your request for assistance from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), which we received on September 25, 2015 via U.S. mail. Your request for assistance pertains to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Executive Office for United States Attorneys.

Congress created OGIS to complement existing FOIA practice and procedure; we strive to work in conjunction with the existing request and appeal process. The goal is for OGIS to allow, whenever practical, the requester to exhaust his or her remedies within the agency, including the appeal process. OGIS has no investigatory or enforcement power, nor can we compel an agency to release documents. OGIS serves as the Federal FOIA Ombudsman and our jurisdiction is limited to assisting with the FOIA process.

You made a request to EOUSA for bond information related to [redacted]. EOUSA responded to your request by informing you that it has no responsive records in its files. You appealed that response, and the Department of Justice Office of Information Policy (OIP) affirmed EOUSA’s action on your request. You asked for OGIS’s assistance with this matter.

As EOUSA and OIP informed you, EOUSA does not have information related to bonds in its files. Corporate surety bonds, cash bonds, and property bonds are posted with the Clerk of the Court for the United States District Court in the district in which the criminal prosecution occurs. Therefore, the court may maintain information pertaining to bonds posted in specific criminal matters in its files. Accordingly, you may wish to make a request to the Office of the Clerk of the Court in the United States District Court in which [redacted].
Please note that such a request is not considered a FOIA request as FOIA applies to federal executive branch agencies, but not the courts or Congress. Please also note that fees may apply.

I hope you find this information useful in understanding why EOUSA responded to your request as it did. At this time, there is no further assistance OGIS can offer. Thank you for bringing this matter to OGIS. We will close your case.

Sincerely,

JAMES V.M.L. HOLZER
Director

cc: Donna Preston, EOUSA FOIA