



Office of the Chief
Records Officer for the
U.S. Government

Sent Via Email. No Hard Copy to Follow.

November 7, 2025

Laura Besong
Agency Records Officer
U.S. Department of Justice
Executive Office for United States Attorneys (EOUSA)
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Laura Besong:

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) received an allegation of unauthorized disposition of EOUSA records. The allegation claims that the interim United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia may have used the disappearing message feature on the Signal messaging platform, which deleted electronic communications with a journalist. Please see the enclosure for more details.

In accordance with 36 CFR 1230.14(a), NARA requests that EOUSA investigate this allegation and respond within 30 calendar days of the date of this letter. If it is determined that an unauthorized disposition of records has occurred, the response should include the following information:

- A complete description of the records with volume, dates, and applicable disposition authority number if known;
- The office maintaining the records;
- A statement of the exact circumstances surrounding the removal, defacing, alteration, or destruction of records;
- A statement of the safeguards established to prevent further loss of documentation; and
- Details of the actions taken to salvage, retrieve, or reconstruct the records.

If there was no unauthorized disposition incident, please provide sufficient information to support that conclusion. Additionally, please ensure that EOUSA clearly instructs all staff that electronic messages created in the course of or related to agency business are considered federal records and must be captured and managed according to a NARA-approved records schedule,

regardless of the electronic messaging platform used. I appreciate your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please contact the Records Management Oversight and Reporting Program by email at UnauthorizedDisposition@nara.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Fischer". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "William" and last name "Fischer" clearly distinguishable.

WILLIAM FISCHER
Chief Records Officer
for the U.S. Government (Acting)

Enclosure:
[2025-10-23_UD20260001_RUD.pdf](#)

Cc: Laurence Brewer, Director, Office of Records Management Policy, Department of Justice