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**MONICA GOODLING'S ATTORNEYS RESPOND TO AMENDED COMPLAINT IN
*GERLICH, ET AL. v. U.S. DEP'T OF JUSTICE, ET AL., NO. 08-1134 (D.D.C.)***

(Washington, DC) – After reviewing the amended complaint filed today by plaintiffs Sean M. Gerlich and others against Monica Goodling, Michael Elston, Esther McDonald, Alberto Gonzales, and the U.S. Department of Justice, Ms. Goodling's attorneys made the following statement:

“The civil lawsuit filed today relates exclusively to alleged improprieties in the selection of candidates for the Attorney General's Honors Program and Summer Law Intern Program. As the Inspector General's June 24, 2008 report makes clear, Ms. Goodling was not involved in any way in the selection of candidates for these programs, nor was she involved in the changes that were made in 2002 to the process used to screen applicants for these programs. As Ms. Goodling stated during her testimony before Congress last year: ‘I do not believe that I reviewed any candidates for the Attorney General's Honors Program, nor was I involved in the decision to change the process by which Honors Program hiring decisions are made.’

Unfortunately, the plaintiffs appear not to have read the Inspector General's report or Ms. Goodling's testimony. Instead, they have made a tactical decision to add Ms. Goodling as a defendant to their lawsuit in order to attract the kind of attention that they did not receive when they filed their original complaint in June. But for her name in the caption, this suit has nothing to do with Ms. Goodling. The plaintiffs' baseless, and possibly sanctionable, allegations against her are based on nothing but speculation and innuendo.

We have no idea why the six plaintiffs in this case were not selected for the Department's extraordinarily competitive Honors Program and Summer Law Intern Programs, except that it had nothing to do with Monica Goodling—a fact that the evidence will bear out in court.”

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