



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

MAY - 1 2013

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I write in response to your letter of April 16, regarding the Department's security clearance procedures for attorneys representing State Department personnel who may appear before your Committee.

The Department routinely provides security clearances to private attorneys for access to classified national security information in a variety of contexts where such a clearance is requested in order to allow the private attorney to properly represent a Department employee. The Department routinely considers written requests for a security clearance for an employee's private attorney which is necessary to ensure proper legal representation. We would ask that any such request with respect to Benghazi, either by the employee or the employee's counsel, be directed to the Office of the Assistant Legal Adviser for Employment Law within the Office of the Legal Adviser. We would emphasize that, despite some of the recent media reporting, to date, we are unaware of any such request having been made to the Office of the Legal Adviser regarding Benghazi.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Thomas B. Gibbons".

Thomas B. Gibbons
Acting Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Legislative Affairs

The Honorable
Darrell E. Issa, Chairman,
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,
House of Representatives.