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Senator demands FBI explain actions against St. Paul whistleblower

Sen. Chuck Grassley has written to FBI Director Robert Mueller demanding an explanation of the roles that several supervisors played in the retaliation against a former agent who had filed a sex-based discrimination complaint against the agency.

By [Dan Browning](#), Star Tribune

Sen. Chuck Grassley has written to FBI Director Robert Mueller demanding an explanation of the roles that several supervisors played in the retaliation against a former agent who had filed a sex-based discrimination complaint against the agency.

Earlier this month, jurors awarded \$565,000 to Jane Turner of St. Paul, finding that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had retaliated against the former special agent in job reviews after she had filed a discrimination complaint.

Grassley, R-Iowa, has supported Turner since she filed a report in 2002 that some fellow FBI agents had taken items from the wreckage of the World Trade Center in New York after the Sept. 11 terrorist attack.

Grassley released his letter to Mueller this morning. He asked Mueller for an accounting of how many FBI supervisors have been disciplined for acts of retaliation in the past five years. And he asked what role, if any, three male supervisors played in the Turner case, and for an explanation whether each would be disciplined.

"It's time for the supervisors who retaliated against Jane Turner, and any other whistleblower for that matter, be held accountable," Grassley said in a written statement.

The agent who directly supervised Turner when she filed her discrimination complaint, Craig Welken, has since retired. But the other two agents Grassley inquired about -- James "Chip" Burrus and James Casey -- still work for the FBI.

Burrus is now assistant director of the agency's criminal division. He testified at Turner's trial that he had supported Welken in his review of her work.

Casey is now section chief of the counterintelligence division. He testified that he conducted a review of Turner's files and recommended that she be transferred to Minneapolis from her preferred posting in Minot, N.D., to help get her work back on track.

A spokesman for Mueller was not immediately available today. But he has said in the past

that he would not tolerate retaliation against FBI whistleblowers, a fact underscored by Grassley in his letter to Mueller.

"Actions speak louder than words," Grassley he wrote. "Now that a jury has substantiated retaliation by the FBI in this case, I am anxious to find out what the FBI will do to demonstrate that your commitment to protecting FBI whistleblowers is more than just words."

Grassley asked for a written response to his questions by March 7.

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