



Office of the Attorney General  
Washington, D. C. 20530

April 15, 2003

To Applicants for the Attorney General's Honors Program:

Thank you for demonstrating your interest in serving America by exploring the opportunities available through the Attorney General's Honors Program at the United States Department of Justice. Now, more than ever, it is important for Americans to work together to defend the shared values of free peoples and the institutions that protect and nurture them.

These are extraordinary times. Forty-two years ago, faced with the menace of communism, President John F. Kennedy observed that, "In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger . . . I do not believe that any of us would exchange places with any other people or any other generation." These words resonate deeply in 2003. We now find ourselves in the midst of an historic struggle for the values of democracy. There is nothing more valuable – or more noble – than serving the public interest in difficult times. It is more than a duty, and more than a privilege: it is the calling of our time. To succeed, the Department of Justice must earn and retain the trust and confidence of all Americans and fulfill our responsibility as a custodian of justice.

I encourage your interest in the Attorney General's Honors Program and invite you to submit your application to join the Department of Justice. We are seeking bright and talented new attorneys from every quarter of this great nation to join a team that reflects the strength of America. Honors Program attorneys step immediately into demanding, sensitive, and important positions and are entrusted with significant responsibility on crucial matters from the day they join us. If you are eager for an incomparable breadth of experience from the very outset of your legal career, while serving America, then I urge you to accept this invitation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Ashcroft".

John Ashcroft  
Attorney General