Bell: reorganize justice department

BY MARILYN BROWN

Gamecock Staff Writer

The justice department needs reorganization to build and maintain public trust through integrity, and to operate more effectively, Attorney General Griffin Bell said Friday in an address to the annual law day banquet. Bell said the principles of absolute integrity and professional responsibility must be applied in the activities of the department.

"Two steps have been taken by the department of justice in an effort to assure absolute integrity," Bell said. "One is designed to make certain that employees perform their duties in accord with professional standards. The other covers federal offenses involving public and institutional corruption at all levels of government."

The first operation is carried out by the office of professional responsibility, which is under the attorney general's direct supervision. This office reviews evidence against departmental employees involving violations of law, regulations or standards of conduct.

"Perhaps the most publicized work of the office of professional responsibility was the recent report of a task force regarding suspicions about the Federal Bureau of Investigation in its investigation of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr," Bell said. "After an eight-month review, the task force found that the FBI's investigation was thorough and asserted there was no FBI complicity in the murder of Dr. King."

Last year, the office of professional responsibility reviewed and received 125 allegations of misconduct against employees. Most of the charges were determined to be of little substance.

"Official wrongdoing outside the department is investigated by the public integrity section of the criminal division," Bell said. "This section prosecutes public corruption that violates federal laws dealing with bribery, extortion, conflict of interest, election offenses and other crimes that involve a public official."

This section can assist U.S. attorneys, and it is aided by the Internal Revenue Service and the FBI. A manual and a training seminar are being developed to keep U.S. attorneys up to date on federal tools available to fight corruption.

"These two units - professional responsibility and public integrity - if carried to their utmost, will, I feel, demonstrate that investigation and prosecution of official corruption can be done fairly and without partisanship," Bell said.

He also spoke of enforcement of fairness and evenhandedness in the law.

"We hope to extend equal protection and due process to new levels through the concept of fundamental fairness," Bell said. "It should include ordinary decency in all instances in due process in many ways where none exist. We must assure the public that we have the discipline to serve society, and at the same time, to protect the individual."

Another goal of the department is to establish a national system to deliver justice. Easier access to the courts and to quicker resolution of disputes would be included in the system. The situation in most courts now is that access to courts is available, but not prompt on issues.

Bell said that citizens can help contribute to the justice department. "First, each of us can support the law and institutions of law," Bell said. "Second, we can recognize that ours is a multiracial society. Each person has every right to which any other person is entitled, and this view should be recognized by all public officials."

"Finally, each of us can remember to assume the responsibility of citizenship. Every American can participate in and contribute to the governmental processes."

Summarizing his speech, Bell said we Americans understand government and make it effective, they can sustain and preserve the U.S. as a place of individuality.

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THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE CHARTERING PROCESS:

- Alpha Delta Epsilon Assn. of Criminal Law Students
- AAF-AIDS Advertising Club
- Afro-American Students' Assn.
- Alpha Delta Pi
- Alpha Epsilon Delta
- Alpha Epsilon Phi, Beta Sigma Chap.
- Alpha Kappa Alpha
- Alpha Lambda Delta
- Alpha Phi Alpha
- Alpha Phi Omega
- Alpha Tau Omega
- Amateur Radio Club
- American Institute of Chemical Engineers
- American Society of Civil Engineers
- American Society of Mechanical Engineers
- Angel Flight
- Arnold Air Society
- Assn. of Honor Students
- Assn. of Women Students
- Amer. Soc. for Personnel Administration
- AIESEC-SC
- Baha'i Club
- Bates House Government
- Beaure Arts
- Beta Alpha Psi
- Biological Undergrad. Society
- Bowling Club
- USC Bowling Club
- Campus Crusade for Christ
- Capstone Residence Hall
- Carolina Christian Fellowship
- Carolina Forensic Soc.
- Chi Omega
- Chi Psi
- Chinese Students Assn.
- Christian Science Organization
- Clarionic Greek Society
- The Classical Society
- Columbia Hall
- Council of Presidents
- The Crucible
- USC Dance Company
- Delta Delta Delta
- Delta Phi Alpha
- Delta Sigma Pi
- Delta Sigma Theta
- Delta Zeta
- Delta Mu Delta Club
- Environmental Law Soc.
- USC Fencing Club
- USC Flying Club
- Finance Club of USC
- The GAMECOCK
- GARNET & BLACK
- GINT Ungrad. Student Organ.
- Grad. Assn. of Life Sciences
- Graduate History Club
- Graduate Students Nurses Org.
- Grad. Student Organ.
- Hillil Foundation
- Hornsby Government
- Handball Club
- Interfraternity Council
- International Law Society
- International Students Club
- Kappa Alpha
- Kappa Alpha Psi
- Kappa Delta
- Kappa Delta Epsilon
- Kappa Gamma
- Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Frat.
- Kappa Sigma
- Kappa Tau Alpha
- Karate Club
- La Crosse Club
- Lambda Chi Alpha
- Lafayette Days Students Assn.
- Libyan Students Club
- Marketing Club
- Maxcy-Thornwell Government
- McClintock Dorm
- Formerly Thunder House
- Mermaid Fleet
- Mortar Board
- Music Educator's Nat'l Conference
- Music Student Council
- National Art Education Assn.
- Nat'l Collegiate Assn. for Secretaries
- The Navigators
- Newman Student Federation
- Omega Psi Phi
- Omicron Delta Epsilon
- Omicron Delta Kappa
- Order of Omega
- Panhellenic Council
- Pan-Hellenic Council
- Phi Alpha Delta
- Phi Delta Phi
- Phi Delta Theta
- Phi Eta Sigma
- Phi Kappa Psi
- Phi Kappa Sigma
- Phi Mu Alpha
- Philosophical Society
- Pi Beta Phi
- Pi Gamma Mu
- Pi Sigma Epsilon
- Sigma Chi
- Sigma Epsilon
- Sigma Nu
- Sigma Phi Epsilon
- Sigma Sigma Sigma
- Sigma Theta Tau
- Sigma Nu
- Sigma Nu
- Sigma Pi Epsilon
- Sigma Sigma Sigma
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- Sigma Tau Gamma
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