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DOJ Renames Fraud Section Following White House Driven Shakeup

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The Justice Department retitled its longstanding criminal fraud section as the "white collar and corporate enforcement section," following a Trump administration shuffling as the White House prioritizes anti-fraud enforcement.

An update appeared on the DOJ Criminal Division's website Monday displaying the change, and a department spokesperson confirmed the rebranding. The renamed unit will "align with its refined portfolio" with a focus on "private fraud enforcement" such as insider trading and securities fraud, the spokesperson said.

The change gives the white collar section a separate lane from the new National Fraud Enforcement Division's mission of combating public benefits fraud and other schemes involving taxpayer dollars.

While it won't prevent the section from continuing traditional investigations of financial scams and overseas bribery, the new title symbolizes the rising clout of the National Fraud Enforcement Division that's already acquired key personnel from the then-fraud section, which generated a turf battle.

Eliminating the fraud section label also closes a chapter on an office established in 1955 that evolved into an elite hub of DOJ headquarters prosecutors targeting global corporations and coordinating cases across the country.

Department leaders backtracked on earlier promises by forcing several fraud section units to transfer into a new division that's been closely aligned with Vice President JD Vance.

What's left in the newly christened white collar and corporate enforcement section are two units with missions that have separately been restricted in President Donald Trump's second term—the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act team with a more limited mandate and a health and safety unit that's experienced the closures of high-profile investigations such as a lengthy probe into Abbott Labs.

A third and final branch of the section is the market, government, and consumer unit that the DOJ spokesperson said will soon be renamed. The government procurement portion of that unit has also merged into the fraud division.

Other priorities for Criminal Division head Tysen Duva out of the white collar and corporate enforcement section include cyber scams, "Ponzi schemes, variable interest entity enforcement, corporate enforcement, foreign corruption affecting U.S. interests, foreign extortion, and Food, Drug, Cosmetic Act violations," the spokesperson said in the statement. "The White Collar and Corporate Enforcement Section investigates and prosecutes cases that concern schemes that steal Americans' hard-earned money in their bank accounts, investments, and the U.S. economy."