JO ANN HARRIS
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division
United States Department of Justice
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Jo Ann Harris is the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Department of Justice's Criminal Division. As such she leads a Division of 400 federal prosecutors and lawyers charged with enforcing the nation's criminal laws, and formulating national law enforcement policy.

Prior to her nomination in the Fall of 1993 to head the Criminal Division, Jo Ann Harris was a Manhattan-based sole practitioner with a federal practice specializing in white collar defense.

Before entering private practice in 1983, she was a federal prosecutor in the Southern District of New York (beginning as an Assistant United States Attorney in 1974; serving as Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division, and then as Executive Assistant United States Attorney). Between 1979 and 1981, she was based in Washington as Chief of the Fraud Section, Criminal Division, Department of Justice.

She has served on three Independent Counsel staffs, in connection with: 1) the current Washington-based investigation of corruption at HUD during the 1980s; 2) the 1990 investigation of New York Mayor David N. Dinkins; and 3) the 1985 investigation of the Charles Point Resource Recovery Facility in Westchester County, New York.

In addition to her law practice and public service activities, Ms. Harris has been a teaching team leader and team member in a multitude of programs for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA), and in 1990 she was awarded the NITA Faculty Award "for inspiration, excellence and dedication for fourteen years of service in teaching advocacy skills."

She also held an appointment as a Lecturer at Harvard Law School; and has taught Trial Skills at numerous law schools including Emory, Fordham, New York, Pace and Hofstra. During 1986-87, she taught Evidence at Emory as a Visiting Professor of Law. During 1992-93 she held an appointment as a Visiting Professor and Director of Trial Advocacy at Pace. She was also a member of the Board of the Pace University Battered Womens' Justice Center, and has led teams of lawyers teaching young lawyers how to represent battered women in court.