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David Hoffman

Co-head of white-collar group, Sidley Austin



David Hoffman's report into apparent collusion between professional psychologists and the US Department of Defense published this year was a game changer.

His forensic seven-month inquiry on behalf of the American Psychological Association concluded leading members of the body did work secretly with the government and FBI in interrogating terror suspects at Guantánamo Bay in a programme that amounted to torture. Publication of the report in July saw a change in the APA's leadership and ethics policy. The findings could open the way to potential prosecutions of individuals involved in torture, something human rights groups have been advocating for years.

Mr Hoffman was a natural candidate for the task given his record as a former federal prosecutor. Also, as Inspector General for Chicago between 2005-09, he transformed the office into a strong anti-corruption agency.

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