

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 16, 2025

Emil Bove III, Nominee to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit  
c/o David A. Warrington, White House Counsel  
Executive Office of the President  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Bove:

I write to request information related to the Department of Justice's (DOJ) handling of the Jeffrey Epstein matter, specifically relating to your involvement in the review of investigative holdings relating to Epstein (the "Epstein files") and decisions relating to public disclosures of the files. You have held a key decision-making role at DOJ since the beginning of this Administration, first as Acting Deputy Attorney General through March 2025 and then in your current position as Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General, serving as a close adviser to Attorney General Pam Bondi. In light of the significant public interest in the Epstein files and the Trump DOJ and FBI's shifting positions on transparency and public disclosure, records and information relating to your participation in this matter are relevant to the Senate Judiciary Committee's ongoing review of your nomination to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

As Acting Deputy Attorney General, you "advise[d] and assist[ed] the Attorney General in formulating and implementing Departmental policies and programs and [provided] overall supervision and direction to all organizational units of the Department" and were "authorized to exercise all the power and authority of the Attorney General."<sup>1</sup> By all accounts, you have continued to fulfill many of these responsibilities as Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General, closely advising Attorney General Pam Bondi. You served in this role at each step of the review and disclosure of the Epstein files, as illustrated in the following timeline of events.

- On January 20, 2025, Bove joined DOJ as the Acting Deputy Attorney General.
- On February 5, Pam Bondi was sworn in as Attorney General.
- On February 20, at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) conference, Bondi told the audience that there were "a lot of documents" in the Epstein files and suggested that the documents were forthcoming because "President Trump [had] given a very strong directive . . . that [was] going to be followed" and "Donald Trump doesn't make empty promises."<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> See 28 C.F.R. § 0.15.

<sup>2</sup> Khaleda Rahman, *Donald Trump's AG To Release Jeffrey Epstein List: 'A Lot of Documents,'* NEWSWEEK (Feb. 21, 2025), <https://www.newsweek.com/donald-trump-ag-jeffrey-epstein-list-2034206>.

- On February 21, in an interview on Fox News, Bondi confirmed that “the list of Jeffrey Epstein’s clients” was “sitting on [her] desk right now to review. That’s been a directive by President Trump.”<sup>3</sup>
- On February 26, Bondi told Jesse Watters on Fox News that DOJ would be releasing portions of the Epstein files, stating, “[w]hat you’re going to see, hopefully tomorrow, is a lot of flight logs, a lot of names, a lot of information.”<sup>4</sup>
- On February 27, at a press event at the White House, Bondi handed out binders of what DOJ and FBI identified as “declassified” Epstein documents. According to Bondi, “The first phase of files released today sheds light on Epstein’s extensive network and begins to provide the public with long overdue accountability.”<sup>5</sup> The Department expressed that it “remain[ed] committed to transparency and intend[ed] to release the remaining documents upon review and redaction to protect the identities of Epstein’s victims.”<sup>6</sup>
- In a February 27 letter<sup>7</sup> to FBI Director Kash Patel, Bondi revealed that she “requested the full and complete files related to Jeffrey Epstein” but had received only approximately 200 pages of documents. However, Bondi “learned from a source that the FBI Field Office in New York was in possession of thousands of pages of documents related to the investigation and indictment of Epstein.” She directed Patel to “deliver the full and complete Epstein files to [her] office including all records, documents, audio and video recordings, and materials related to Jeffrey Epstein and his clients, regardless of how such information was obtained. There will be no withholdings or limitations to my or your access.”
- On March 3, in an interview with Sean Hannity, Bondi stated that she received a “truckload of evidence” and “thousands of pages of documents” of Epstein files. Bondi pledged, “It’s a new administration, and everything’s going to come out to the public. The public has the right to know. Americans have a right to know.”<sup>8</sup>
- On March 6, Todd Blanche was sworn in as Deputy Attorney General; Bove assumed the role of Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General.
- On March 7, Bondi and Bove placed Andrew Rohrbach, the prosecutor who successfully prosecuted Epstein’s accomplice, Ghislaine Maxwell, on leave.<sup>9</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> Haley Chi-Sing, *Bondi says Epstein client list 'sitting on my desk right now,' and is reviewing JFK, MLK files*, FOX NEWS (Feb. 21, 2025), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/bondi-says-epstein-client-list-sitting-my-desk-right-now-reviewing-jfk-mlk-files>.

<sup>4</sup> *AG Pam Bondi reveals Epstein files info should be released 'tomorrow'*, JESSE WATTERS PRIMETIME, FOX NEWS (Feb. 26, 2025), <https://www.foxnews.com/video/6369373573112>.

<sup>5</sup> Press Release, *Attorney General Pamela Bondi Releases First Phase of Declassified Epstein Files*, U.S. DEP’T OF JUSTICE (Feb. 27, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/attorney-general-pamela-bondi-releases-first-phase-declassified-epstein-files>.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> Letter from Attorney General Bondi to FBI Director Patel (Feb. 27, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/ag/media/1391331/dl?inline>.

<sup>8</sup> Andrea Margolis, *AG Pam Bondi says FBI delivered 'truckload' of Epstein files after she put out hard deadline*, FOX NEWS (March 3, 2025), <https://www.foxnews.com/us/ag-pam-bondi-says-fbi-delivered-truckload-epstein-files-after-she-put-out-hard-deadline>.

<sup>9</sup> Ben Kochman, *Trump’s DOJ puts two more prosecutors on Eric Adams’ bribery case on leave*, NY POST (March 7, 2025), <https://nypost.com/2025/03/07/us-news/two-more-prosecutors-on-eric-adams-bribery-case-put-on-leave/>.

- On May 7, Bondi stated the FBI was reviewing “tens of thousands of videos of Epstein with children or child porn.”<sup>10</sup>

Despite Bondi’s repeated vows to disclose to the public all of the Epstein files, on July 7, DOJ published an undated and unsigned memo announcing that “the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have conducted an exhaustive review of investigative holdings relating to Jeffrey Epstein” and that “[t]hrough this review, we found no basis to revisit the disclosure of these materials.”<sup>11</sup> The memo contradicts Bondi’s repeated statements about the existence of a “client list,” stating that the “systematic review revealed no incriminating ‘client list,’” that “[t]here was also no credible evidence found that Epstein blackmailed prominent individuals as part of his actions,” and that “[w]e did not uncover evidence that could predicate an investigation against uncharged third parties.”<sup>12</sup> The memo concluded: “it is the determination of the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation that no further disclosure would be appropriate or warranted.”<sup>13</sup>

Public reports indicate that FBI Director Kash Patel and Deputy FBI Deputy Director Dan Bongino strongly opposed withholding the Epstein files from the public, which led to a heated confrontation with Attorney General Bondi.<sup>14</sup>

Your involvement in the DOJ’s review of the Epstein files is a matter of significant public importance given the contradictory statements by Attorney General Bondi concerning the existence of an Epstein “client list” and DOJ’s stated commitment to transparency. Furthermore, it warrants scrutiny whether the DOJ intentionally withheld evidence related to the trafficking and sexual abuse of minors to protect certain individuals.<sup>15</sup>

It is imperative that the Senate Judiciary Committee ascertain the scope and extent of your involvement in the handling of the Epstein files before voting on your nomination. To that end, I respectfully request that you provide responses to the following questions no later than **9:00 a.m. on July 17, 2025.**

1. Did you ever advise AG Bondi regarding the Epstein files?
2. Did you participate in the review of any documents, video, or other evidence contained in the Epstein files?

---

<sup>10</sup> Daniel Miller, *Jeffrey Epstein files: Bondi claims FBI reviewing 'tens of thousands' of videos in case*, LIVE NOW FOX (July 1, 2025), <https://www.forbes.com/sites/saradorn/2025/07/07/heres-why-the-epstein-list-still-haunts-the-trump-white-house/>.

<sup>11</sup> Statement, U.S. DEP’T OF JUSTICE, FBI, (July 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/media/1407001/dl>

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*

<sup>14</sup> Ken Dilanian, et al., *Dan Bongino weighs resigning from FBI after heated confrontation with Pam Bondi over Epstein files*, NBC News (July 11, 2025), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/dan-bongino-weighs-resigning-fbi-heated-confrontation-pam-bondi-epstei-rcna218388>.

<sup>15</sup> On June 5, top Trump advisor, Elon Musk suggested that the Administration was concealing the Epstein files to protect the President, stating, in a now-deleted post on X, “Time to drop the really big bomb: @realDonaldTrump is in the Epstein files. That is the real reason they have not been made public.”

3. Did you participate in drafting or reviewing the letter Pam Bondi sent to Kash Patel on February 27, 2025 directing the FBI to produce “all records, documents, audio and video recordings, and materials related to Jeffrey Epstein and his clients”?
4. Did you ever participate in discussions about what evidence from the Epstein files the DOJ should release?
5. Did you participate in any discussions about whether to release video evidence from the Epstein files involving child sexual abuse material (CSAM)?
6. Did you ever discuss the release of any evidence from the Epstein files with Pam Bondi?
7. Did you ever discuss the release of any evidence from the Epstein files with Kash Patel?
8. Did you ever discuss the release of any evidence from the Epstein files with Dan Bongino?
9. Did you participate in a discussion about the release of any evidence from the Epstein files with Pam Bondi, Kash Patel, and Dan Bongino?
10. Did you ever participate in a discussion in which Dan Bongino suggested releasing all the evidence in the Epstein files, including video, prior to July 7, 2025?
11. Did you ever express concerns to Kash Patel or Dan Bongino about releasing video evidence from the Epstein files because it could include CSAM prior to July 7, 2025?
12. Did you participate in any discussion in which Attorney General Bondi expressed concerns to Kash Patel or Dan Bongino about releasing video evidence from the Epstein files due to the presence of CSAM prior to July 7, 2025?
13. Did you participate in drafting or reviewing the undated and unsigned DOJ and FBI memo issued on July 7, 2025?

I appreciate your timely attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Cory A. Booker