

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

September 26, 2025

The Honorable Pam Bondi
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Bondi:

We write to express our alarm at the recent resignation of Acting U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia Erik Siebert after he refused to bring criminal charges against New York Attorney General Letitia James and former Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director James Comey. Mr. Siebert's decision to resign after reportedly facing immense pressure from the White House and Department of Justice (DOJ) leadership—followed by the indictment of Director Comey by unqualified loyalist Acting U.S. Attorney Lindsey Halligan—are the latest steps in President Trump's efforts to reshape the nation's leading law enforcement agency into a weapon focused on punishing his enemies.

On September 19, 2025, Mr. Siebert was forced to resign from his position as Acting U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia.¹ This decision came after months of pressure from President Trump and senior Administration officials—including Ed Martin, the head of the DOJ Weaponization Working Group—to more aggressively investigate and pursue criminal charges against Attorney General James, Director Comey, and other perceived adversaries of the President.² Mr. Siebert left after he was notified of the President's intention to fire him the previous day, reportedly because federal prosecutors recently declined to indict Attorney General James on charges related to allegations of mortgage fraud and recommended not charging Director Comey.³ Mr. Siebert was not the only U.S. Attorney navigating demands to prosecute

¹ Katherine Faulders, Peter Charalambous, & Alexander Mallin, *US Attorney Resigns Amid Pressure from Trump After Sources Say He Refused to Charge NY AG Letitia James*, ABC NEWS (Sept. 20, 2025), <https://abcnews.go.com/US/us-attorney-plans-resign-amid-pressure-trump-after/story?id=125750006>.

² Peter Charalambous, Katherine Faulders, & Alexander Mallin, *Trump Officials Pressuring Federal Prosecutors to Bring Criminal Charges Against NY AG Letitia James*, ABC NEWS (Sept. 17, 2025), <https://abcnews.go.com/US/trump-officials-pressuring-federal-prosecutors-bring-criminal-charges/story?id=125636577>; Salvador Rizzo, Perry Stein, & Jeremy Roebuck, *Top Virginia Prosecutor Resigns Amid Criticism Over Letitia James Investigation*, WASH. POST (Sept. 20, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/09/19/trump-letitia-james-erik-siebert-virginia/>; and Katherine Faulders, Alexander Mallin, & Peter Charalambous, *Former FBI Director James Comey Indicted Days After Trump Demanded His DOJ Move 'Now' to Prosecute Enemies*, ABC NEWS (Sept. 25, 2025), <https://abcnews.go.com/US/former-fbi-director-james-comey-indicted-days-after/story?id=125935658>.

³ Aaron Pellish & Josh Gerstein, *Trump Says US Attorney Should Be Fired After Not Prosecuting NY AG James*, POLITICO (Sept. 19, 2025), <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/09/19/trump-letitia-james-investigation-firing-00574047>, and Sarah N. Lynch, *US Prosecutors to Seek Indictment of Former FBI Director Comey*, REUTERS (Sept. 25, 2025), <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/former-fbi-director-comey-be-indicted-virginia-soon-msnbc-reports->

the President's enemies, with Acting U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland Kelly O. Hayes reportedly facing similar pressure to file charges against other targets of President Trump and other U.S. Attorney offices having similarly faced pressure to fire staff.⁴

Prior to taking office, every federal prosecutor takes an oath to faithfully execute their duties.⁵ They are required to follow the facts and the law prior to pursuing a criminal indictment against any individual, regardless of their political party or standing. After nearly five months and over a dozen interviews, the Department has reportedly been unable to find sufficient evidence that Attorney General James committed a federal crime to bring an indictment.⁶ Without such evidence, federal prosecutors cannot simply manufacture charges against an American citizen. President Trump's belief in an individual's guilt and his desire for personal retribution are not sufficient.

Following Mr. Siebert's resignation, the President went so far as to preemptively declare Attorney General James "guilty as hell," and then pressured you to charge his enemies, with a dramatic plea that, "We can't delay any longer, it's killing our reputation and credibility. They impeached me twice, and indicted me (5 times!), JUSTICE MUST BE SERVED NOW!!!"⁷

Our justice system operates on the principle that the President cannot demand the prosecution of an individual to settle personal scores, let alone when there is no credible evidence that a person engaged in any wrongdoing.

While DOJ wastes resources chasing President Trump's petty grievances, it is gaining the dubious reputation of pursuing cases with insufficient evidence⁸ and covering up reported

2025-09-24/. See also Andrew J. Tessman, *I Tried Mortgage Fraud Cases. Trump's Revenge Prosecutions are a Sham*, WASH. POST (Sept. 20, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2025/09/20/mortgage-fraud-cook-schiff-james-siebert-resignation/>.

⁴ Alan Feuer et al., *Trump Demands That Bondi Move 'Now' to Prosecute Foes*, N.Y. TIMES (Sept. 20, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/20/us/politics/trump-justice-department-us-attorneys.html>. See also, Elizabeth Beyer, *White House Allegedly Pressured Gilbert to Resign as U.S. Attorney in Dispute Over Personnel. Is That Normal?*, CARDINAL NEWS (Aug. 27, 2025), <https://cardinalnews.org/2025/08/27/white-house-allegedly-pressured-gilbert-to-resign-as-u-s-attorney-in-dispute-over-personnel-is-that-normal/>; Dwayne Yancey, *Here's Why Trump's Ouster of the U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of Virginia is So Significant*, CARDINAL NEWS (Sept. 22, 2025), <https://cardinalnews.org/2025/09/22/heres-why-trumps-ouster-of-the-u-s-attorney-in-the-eastern-district-of-virginia-is-so-significant/>; and Spencer S. Hsu, *Seven Top D.C. Prosecutors Demoted in Purge by Trump U.S. Attorney*, WASH. POST (Feb. 28, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2025/02/28/7-dc-prosecutors-demoted-trump/>.

⁵ 28 U.S.C. § 544.

⁶ Peter Charalambous, Katherine Faulders, & Alexander Mallin, *Trump Officials Pressuring Federal Prosecutors to Bring Criminal Charges Against NY AG Letitia James*, ABC NEWS (Sept. 17, 2025), <https://abcnews.go.com/US/trump-officials-pressuring-federal-prosecutors-bring-criminal-charges/story?id=125636577>.

⁷ Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), TRUTH SOCIAL (Sept. 20, 2025, 6:44 PM), <https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/115239044548033727>.

⁸ See e.g., Chris Strohm, *Letitia James Mortgage Fraud Probe is Moving Ahead at DOJ*, BLOOMBERG (Sept. 23, 2025), <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/litigation/justice-department-presses-ahead-with-james-mortgage-fraud-case>; Katherine Faulders et al., *Newly Appointed US Attorney Will Attempt to Charge James Comey Despite Prosecutors Finding No Probable Cause*, ABC NEWS (Sept. 24, 2025), <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/newly-appointed-us-attorney-attempt-charge-james-comey/story?id=125906268>; and Michael Kunzelman, *Prosecutors Already Have Dropped Nearly a Dozen Cases from Trump's DC Crime Surge, Judge Says*, AP (Sept. 17, 2025),

corruption and criminal wrongdoing by the President's supporters, donors, and Administration officials.⁹ The redirection of valuable personnel and funds towards resolving the President's personal grievances and rewarding his political allies ignores real issues impacting American families and leaves our country less safe. The Department's capitulation to any demand to baselessly prosecute the President's enemies would represent a grave miscarriage of justice and a violation of your oath of office to support and defend the Constitution.¹⁰

To ensure that the Department remains faithful to the Constitution and protects American citizens from criminal prosecution by social media fiat, we ask that you provide the following information and materials no later than October 10, 2025:

1. Documents and communications reflecting or relating to communication between and among members of the Department's Weaponization Working Group, the Office of Deputy Attorney General, the Office of Attorney General, the Office of the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, and any White House official concerning the investigations of Attorney General Letitia James, Tom Homan, James Comey, current Members of Congress, or former Administration officials.
2. Documents and communications reflecting or relating to communication between and among members of the Department's Weaponization Working Group, the Office of Deputy Attorney General, the Office of Attorney General, and any White House official concerning personnel decisions in the U.S. Attorneys' Offices for the Eastern District of Virginia, the District of Maryland, the Western District of Virginia, the District of Columbia, and the Central District of California.
3. Documents and communications reflecting or relating to communication between and among members of the Department's Weaponization Working Group, the Office of Deputy Attorney General, the Office of Attorney General, the Office of the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia concerning the investigation into Attorney General James, James Comey, or former Administration officials.
4. Documents and communications reflecting or relating to communication between and among members of the Department's Weaponization Working Group, the Office of Deputy Attorney General, the Office of Attorney General, the Office of the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland concerning the investigation into Senator Adam B. Schiff.
5. Documents and communications reflecting or relating to communication between and among members of the Department's Weaponization Working Group, the Office of

<https://apnews.com/article/trump-surge-washington-dc-prosecutions-magistrate-judge-dddf76de9eae16ff4b4e3382bb953c9b>.

⁹ See e.g., Carol Leonnig & Ken Dilanian, *Tom Homan was Investigated for Accepting \$50,000 from Undercover FBI Agents. Trump's DOJ Shut It Down*, MSNBC (Sept. 20, 2025), <https://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/news/tom-homan-cash-contracts-trump-doj-investigation-rcna232568>; Ryan J. Reilly, *DOJ Dismisses Case Against a Trump Donor After White House Fired Career Prosecutor*, NBC NEWS (July 30, 2025), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/doj-dismisses-case-fat-brands-andy-widerhorn-fired-prosecutor-rcna221940>; Carrie Johnson, *Fallout from Eric Adams Case Continues at the Justice Department*, NPR (Feb. 14, 2025), <https://www.npr.org/2025/02/14/nx-s1-5298040/justice-department-eric-adams-fallout>; and Tom Dreisbach, *Justice Department Broadens Jan. 6 Pardons to Cover Gun, Drug-Related Charges*, NPR (Feb. 20, 2025), <https://www.npr.org/2025/02/20/nx-s1-5304454/jan-6-pardons-drugs-firearms>.

¹⁰ Appointment Affidavit of Pamela Jo Bondi (Feb. 5, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/oip/media/1397526/dl?inline>

Deputy Attorney General, the Office of Attorney General, and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas concerning the investigation into Tom Homan.

6. Documents and communications reflecting or relating to communication between and among members of the Department's Weaponization Working Group, the Office of Deputy Attorney General, the Office of Attorney General, and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Virginia concerning investigations into the handling or storage of classified documents.
7. Documents and communications reflecting or relating to communication between and among members of the Department's Weaponization Working Group, the Office of Deputy Attorney General, the Office of Attorney General, and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California concerning the investigation into Andrew Wiederhorn and Fat Brands, Inc.

We also ask that you make available Kelly O. Hayes, Justin R. Simmons, Bilal Essayli, Lindsey Halligan, Robert Tracci, Jeanine Pirro, Ed Martin, and Jared Wise available for interviews by the Committee, so we may fully understand the scope of the President's abuse of power and your commitment to the rule of law.

We look forward to your full and prompt responses to these questions.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
Ranking Member



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary