

An Open Letter in Opposition to Presidential Actions Purporting to Prevent Abuses of the Legal System and the Federal Court¹

The Trump Administration’s retaliatory Executive Orders² unfairly, unjustly and unconstitutionally target the legal profession in a thinly veiled attempt to prevent legal representation for viewpoints that run counter to those of the Administration. These Orders are palpable threats to the integrity and underlying principles of the American legal system by attempting to eviscerate the system of checks and balances upon which our democracy depends, and demonstrate an unprecedented abuse of executive authority.

We exist in a democracy, not a dictatorship. Executive Orders aimed at eradicating allegedly “partisan” litigation, and stripping security clearances or otherwise stonewalling law firms that represent political opponents, couldn’t be any less democratic—we all depend on an adversarial system of justice to prevent abuse and oversteps. Moreover, threatening to remove judges for enforcing the rule of law is a hallmark of dictatorship: the use of political power to achieve ends that cannot be obtained through legal means, or through the ballot box. Finally, condemning “diversity, equity and inclusion” programs and policies runs counter to principles of egalitarianism and fairness upon which our democracy was founded, and which have been incorporated into our very Constitution.

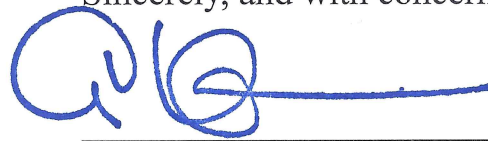
¹ The views and opinions expressed in this letter are those of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of any entities represented by the firm.

² Memorandum: Suspension of Security Clearances and Evaluation of Government Contracts, February 23, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/02/suspension-of-security-clearances-and-evaluation-ofgovernment-contracts/>; Addressing Risks from Perkins Coie LLP, Exec. Order No. 14230, March 6, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/addressing-risks-from-perkins-coie-llp/>; Addressing Risks from Paul Weiss, March 14, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/addressing-risks-frompaul-weiss/> (rescinded by Addressing Remedial Actions by Paul Weiss, March 21, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/addressing-remedial-action-by-paul-weiss/>); Memorandum: Preventing Abuses of the Legal System and the Federal Court, March 22, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/preventing-abuses-of-the-legal-system-and-the-federalcourt/>; Addressing Risks from Jenner & Block, March 25, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidentialactions/2025/03/addressing-risks-from-jenner-block/>.

We applaud those in the legal community who have taken the opportunity to speak out against these unconstitutional Orders, those who have taken actions to deter future Orders of this nature, and all who advocate to uphold the independence of lawyers and the legal system.³ We call on all our colleagues in the legal profession to do likewise, and will support them in such efforts.

Finally, we commend the recent decisions of District Court Judges who rightfully and expeditiously took actions to block such Executive Orders, acknowledging that the injuries “would spill over to [] clients and the justice system at large” and that “[t]he public interest demands protecting against harms of this magnitude.”⁴

Sincerely, and with concern,



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³ See e.g., Attorneys General for Illinois, Delaware, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington, “An Open Letter to the Legal Community Regarding the President’s Attacks on the Legal Profession and the Federal Judiciary.”

⁴ See e.g., *Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP v. Executive Office of the President*, Case No. 25-cv-917 (RJL), Memorandum Order, Dkt #10 (D.C. March 28, 2025).