

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for the invitation to testify today. My name is Marcus Allen. I am here to speak with the committee about how the FBI weaponized the security clearance process to retaliate against me for protected whistleblower activity.

In late 2021, I raised concerns about the FBI Director's testimony about the January 6th Capitol riot, not out of political motivation, but out of a duty to truth and integrity. This act, which I believed to be in the spirit of transparency and accountability, led to an unexpected and severe consequences.

Almost exactly three years ago today, I forwarded news articles to my superiors and others within the FBI about January 6th. It was literally one of my job duties to keep my colleagues informed about open-source intelligence related to their cases. As a result simply doing my job, the FBI accused me of promoting "conspiratorial views" and "unreliable information." The FBI questioned my allegiance to the United States, suspended my security clearance, suspended my pay, and refused to allow me to obtain outside employment or even accept charity.

The suspension ultimately lasted for 27 months. During that time, the FBI held my family and me in indefinite limbo awaiting a final decision. Imagine the daily uncertainty about providing for your family, the emotional toll of explaining to your children why their father can't work, or the stress of wondering how you'll cover medical bills or keep a roof over your heads.

Determined to not lose our home, my wife and I took early withdrawals from our retirement accounts to survive. It became clear that the FBI, with endless resources, was trying to destroy me financially so that I would give up. These fears are not just mine but are shared by countless potential whistleblowers who see the personal cost of integrity.

There are no words strong enough to describe the impact the FBI's lies about me have had on me and my family. The stress has taken a toll on our health, and our children have suffered. Our savings and retirement accounts are decimated and my career as an intelligence professional is forever tarnished.

The FBI's restoration of my clearance earlier this year—thanks to the efforts of Empower Oversight and the ACLJ—was absolute vindication. It's a point I would not have reached without the prior aid of Bigley Ranish and Judicial Watch. However, the experience is also a stark reminder of the system's flaws. It took legal battles, public scrutiny, and too much time.

No other FBI whistleblower has ever had his clearance restored as I did. Garret O'Boyle and his family are still suffering in the same limbo we were—with no access to due process and no limit on the FBI's ability to delay and avoid independent accountability. How many other whistleblowers remain silent, fearing the same ordeal my family and Garret's family faced with little hope of vindication at the end?

Despite the stress and uncertainty, I have never once regretted standing up for truth. In fact, I am actually grateful for the experience. If you do not worship God, then you will worship something else. You can either serve God or you can serve mammon, but you cannot serve both.

While we lost material items, we gained more important things. We have stored up for ourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal. (Matthew 6:20). Our faith has increased, and we have seen the hand of God move in our lives in unexpected ways. What we have gained has far outweighed what was lost.

John Adams noted that the framework of our country was built for a moral and religious people and unfit for the governance of any other. James Madison notes the duty to honor God is precedent both in order of time and degree of obligation to the claims of civil society. Before any man can be considered as a member of civil society, he must be considered as a subject of the Governor of the universe.

I recently learned about comments made by Mr. Jeffrey Veltri suggesting I was delusional for believing in and seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit. Mr. Veltri currently serves as Special Agent in Charge of the Miami field office, but at the time he was an executive at Security Division, overseeing security clearance decisions. I'd like to address Mr. Veltri. Sir, you may disparage and insult me if you wish, but you should not mock God. It is an insult to the infinite dignity of God Who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and bad for the health of your soul (Matthew 12:31).

But this is not about me. It's much bigger than that. I am hopeful the truth of what happened will be fully revealed and deter the FBI from doing the same injustice to others.

While I would not wish this harm on anyone else, I must plead with other employees who have witnessed wrongdoing that they find courage to speak up. You are not alone, nor will you ever be. "Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?" (Psalms 139:5-7) I have been blessed to be supported by God's grace, men and women of goodwill, other whistleblowers, the charity of the American people, many prayers, and great attorneys along the way, such as Tristan Leavitt and Jason Foster of Empower Oversight.

Potential whistleblowers: please do not be silenced by the FBI's mistreatment. We are all here to support you if you choose to come forward. "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Equally important is the awareness and involvement of the American people.

While I feel vindicated now in getting back my security clearance, it is sad that in the country for which I fought as a Marine, the FBI, my employer, was allowed to lie about my loyalty to the United States for three years. Unless there is accountability, it will keep happening to others. Better oversight and changes to security clearance laws are key to stopping the abuses suffered by whistleblowers like me. Thank you for the opportunity to be here today.