

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051  
MINORITY (202) 225-5074  
<https://oversight.house.gov>

December 1, 2021

Mr. Dan Alban  
Senior Attorney and Co-Director, National Initiative to End Forfeiture Abuse  
Institute for Justice  
901 North Glebe Road, Suite 900  
Arlington, VA 22203

Dear Mr. Alban:

The Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties invites you to testify at a hearing on “Forfeiting Our Rights: The Urgent Need for Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform” on Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. ET. The hearing will convene in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building and remotely on the Zoom video platform.

The hearing will examine the need to reform the nation’s civil asset forfeiture laws to prevent state, local, and federal law enforcement from abusing the civil rights and civil liberties of Americans.

The enclosed Witness Instruction Sheet provides information for witnesses appearing before the Subcommittee. Please note the procedures for submitting written testimony at least two business days prior to the hearing.

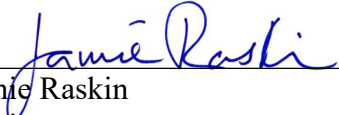
For in-person participants, the enclosed COVID-19 guidelines describe the Committee’s coronavirus safety protocols. Consistent with these guidelines, all witnesses and their staff must confirm their vaccination status and complete a health assessment before entering the Committee’s hearing room and/or office spaces. Witnesses who are not fully vaccinated must also provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test in advance of the hearing in order to enter the Committee’s hearing room and/or office spaces.

For witnesses participating remotely, the enclosed Zoom user guides demonstrate how to: (1) navigate Zoom features and (2) ensure the best user experience by employing general best practices (e.g., optimal lighting and sound conditions). Participants attending remotely are also asked to connect by 9:30 a.m. ET to ensure their participation and troubleshoot any connectivity issues.

Mr. Dan Alban  
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I ask that you please contact the Subcommittee by December 3, 2021, to confirm your attendance. If you have any questions, please contact Subcommittee staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jamie Raskin  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Nancy Mace, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

**Committee on Oversight & Reform**  
**Witness Instruction Sheet**

1. Witnesses should provide their testimony, biography, and "Truth in Testimony" disclosure and certification form via email to [Oversight\\_Clerks@mail.house.gov](mailto:Oversight_Clerks@mail.house.gov) no later than 10:00 a.m. two business days prior to the hearing.
2. Witnesses should also provide a short biographical summary and include it with the electronic copy of testimony provided to the Clerk.
3. At the hearing, each witness will be asked to summarize his or her written testimony in five minutes or less in order to maximize the time available for discussion and questions. Written testimony will be entered into the hearing record and may extend to any reasonable length.
4. Written testimony will be made publicly available and will be posted on the Committee's website and the U.S. House of Representatives Document Repository. It is therefore recommended that personally identifiable information, such as addresses and phone numbers, not be included in the biographical information.
5. The Committee does not provide financial reimbursement for witness travel or accommodations. Witnesses with extenuating circumstances, however, may submit a written request for such reimbursements to Robin Butler, Financial Administrator, 2157 Rayburn House Office Building, at least one week prior to the hearing. Reimbursements will not be made without prior approval.
6. Witnesses with disabilities should contact Committee staff to arrange any necessary accommodations.
7. Please note that Committee Rule 16(b) requires counsel representing an individual or entity before the Committee or any of its subcommittees, whether in connection with a request, subpoena, or testimony, promptly submit a notice of appearance to the Committee. If this applies to you, please email the address above to acquire this form.

For inquiries regarding these rules and procedures, please contact the Committee on Oversight and Reform at (202) 225-5051.

## COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

### COVID-19 GUIDELINES

1. **Mask Wearing and Distancing:** All official business visitors are required to wear masks in the hearing room and Committee office spaces at all times, regardless of vaccination status. The Committee also strongly encourages visitors to keep safe distances from other individuals in the hearing room and Committee offices spaces at all times.

Hearing witnesses are permitted to remove their masks when recognized to speak. All other visitors must continue to wear masks at all times.

2. **Vaccination Status:** Visitors must confirm their vaccination status by emailing a certification to Committee staff at [Oversight\\_Clerks@mail.house.gov](mailto:Oversight_Clerks@mail.house.gov) before entering the Committee's hearing room and/or office spaces. Visitors who are not fully vaccinated or who have not provided their vaccination status 24 hours before entering the Committee's hearing room or office spaces must provide Committee staff proof of a negative COVID-19 test. The test must be taken no earlier than 3 days prior to entering the Committee's hearing room and/or office spaces.
3. **Health Screening:** Visitors must complete the Committee's COVID-19 Health Screening Assessment by emailing responses to [Oversight\\_Clerks@mail.house.gov](mailto:Oversight_Clerks@mail.house.gov) on the day of the Committee event, but before entering the Committee's hearing room and/or office spaces. Responses may also be confirmed verbally with Committee staff, before entering the hearing room and/or office space. Visitors who fail to complete a Health Screening Assessment will not be permitted entry into the Committee's hearing room and/or office spaces. Hearing witnesses who fail to provide this information will be required to testify remotely.

**OFFICIAL BUSINESS VISITOR INSTRUCTIONS**

**Vaccination Certification**

Please confirm your vaccination status by emailing your response to Committee staff at [Oversight\\_Clerks@mail.house.gov](mailto:Oversight_Clerks@mail.house.gov):

I certify that I **[HAVE]** **[HAVE NOT]** completed all scheduled doses of an FDA-approved or FDA-authorized coronavirus vaccine.

## COVID-19 Health Screening Assessment

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Responses to this health screening assessment must be provided on the day of the event, but before entering the Committee hearing room or office spaces.
2. Responses to this assessment can be emailed to [Oversight Clerks@mail.house.gov](mailto:Oversight Clerks@mail.house.gov) or confirmed verbally with Committee staff, before entering the hearing room or office space.
3. Please **DO NOT** submit a completed copy of this health assessment. You should only confirm that you have “answered ‘NO’ to all questions” OR “answered ‘YES’ to at least one question”:

**Regarding your personal health, please answer the following questions to the best of your ability\*:**

- Are you currently experiencing, or have you experienced **within the past 10 days** any of the following symptoms?

Fever (Temp equal to or greater than 100.4 F)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Chills with shaking or teeth chattering	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Fatigue	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Muscle or body aches	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Congestion or runny nose	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Sore throat	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Frequent cough	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Shortness of breath at rest	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Nausea or vomiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Diarrhea	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Headache	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Loss of ability to taste or smell	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

- Are you awaiting COVID-19 test results as a result of actual or potential exposure to a COVID-positive person, or have you been told to isolate or quarantine by a healthcare provider?

Yes  No

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**Stop here and follow the directions at the bottom if you completed a full vaccination course at least 14 days ago; OR have been diagnosed with COVID 19 in the past 90 days.**

**If not, continue to the next two questions before submitting your responses.**

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- Are you well, but a member of your household is sick at home with bronchitis-like or cold symptoms, or awaiting the result of a COVID-19 test?

Yes  No

- Have you been in direct close contact with a person with lab-confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 within the past 14 days??

Yes  No

*\*If you answered YES to any of the above questions, DO NOT report to the hearing room or any Committee office spaces. Please stay home and consult your personal physician for further guidance.*

# Truth in Testimony Disclosure Form

In accordance with Rule XI, clause 2(g)(5)\* of the *Rules of the House of Representatives*, witnesses are asked to disclose the following information. Please complete this form electronically by filling in the provided blanks.

**Committee:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Subcommittee:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hearing Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hearing** :

**Witness Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Position/Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Witness Type:**  Governmental  Non-governmental

**Are you representing yourself or an organization?**  Self  Organization

**If you are representing an organization, please list what entity or entities you are representing:**

## **FOR WITNESSES APPEARING IN A NON-GOVERNMENTAL CAPACITY**

**Please complete the following fields. If necessary, attach additional sheet(s) to provide more information.**

**Are you a fiduciary—including, but not limited to, a director, officer, advisor, or resident agent—of any organization or entity that has an interest in the subject matter of the hearing? If so, please list the name of the organization(s) or entities.**



**Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) related to the hearing's subject matter that you or the organization(s) you represent have received in the past thirty-six months from the date of the hearing. Include the source and amount of each grant or contract.**

**Please list any contracts, grants, or payments originating with a foreign government and related to the hearing's subject that you or the organization(s) you represent have received in the past thirty-six months from the date of the hearing. Include the amount and country of origin of each contract or payment.**

**Please complete the following fields. If necessary, attach additional sheet(s) to provide more information.**

- I have attached a written statement of proposed testimony.
- I have attached my curriculum vitae or biography.

\* Rule XI, clause 2(g)(5), of the U.S. House of Representatives provides:

(5)(A) Each committee shall, to the greatest extent practicable, require witnesses who appear before it to submit in advance written statements of proposed testimony and to limit their initial presentations to the committee to brief summaries thereof.

(B) In the case of a witness appearing in a non-governmental capacity, a written statement of proposed testimony shall include— (i) a curriculum vitae; (ii) a disclosure of any Federal grants or contracts, or contracts, grants, or payments originating with a foreign government, received during the past 36 months by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness and related to the subject matter of the hearing; and (iii) a disclosure of whether the witness is a fiduciary (including, but not limited to, a director, officer, advisor, or resident agent) of any organization or entity that has an interest in the subject matter of the hearing.

(C) The disclosure referred to in subdivision (B)(ii) shall include— (i) the amount and source of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) related to the subject matter of the hearing; and (ii) the amount and country of origin of any payment or contract related to the subject matter of the hearing originating with a foreign government.

(D) Such statements, with appropriate redactions to protect the privacy or security of the witness, shall be made publicly available in electronic form 24 hours before the witness appears to the extent practicable, but not later than one day after the witness appears.

**False Statements Certification**

Knowingly providing material false information to this committee/subcommittee, or knowingly concealing material information from this committee/subcommittee, is a crime (18 U.S.C. § 1001). This form will be made part of the hearing record.

*Dan Alban*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS**

**NOTICE OF APPEARANCE OF COUNSEL**

**Counsel submitting:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bar number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State/District of admission:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attorney for:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Pursuant to Rule 16 of the Committee Rules, notice is hereby given of the entry of the undersigned as counsel for \_\_\_\_\_ in (select one):

- All matters before the Committee
- The following matters (describe the scope of representation):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**All further notice and copies of papers and other material relevant to this action should be directed to and served upon:**

**Attorney's name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attorney's email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Firm name (where applicable):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**I agree to notify the Committee within 1 business day of any change in representation.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Attorney**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

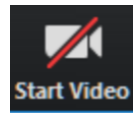
# COR Zoom Meeting Guide

## To Turn Webcam On/Off

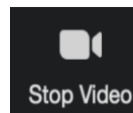
Participants can enable their webcams during meetings to engage in face-to-face interactions.

### **From a desktop, laptop, iPad, or tablet:**

- To start your webcam, select “Start Video”:



- To stop your webcam, select “Stop Video”:



## To Mute/Unmute

To reduce background noise, all participants will be placed on mute upon entering the meeting.

### **From a phone:**

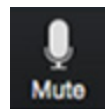
- Dial \*6 (toggle to mute and unmute)

### **From a desktop, laptop, iPad, or tablet:**

- To take yourself off mute, select “Unmute”:

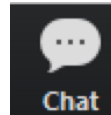


- To mute yourself, select “Mute”:



## To Communicate with Meeting Participants

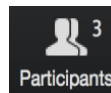
During the meeting, you can send *private messages* to individual users, or you can send *public messages* to all participants. Be careful when selecting who you wish to communicate with.



- To chat with other participants, select “Chat”:

## To View List of Meeting Participants

You can view the names of all participants in the meeting. Participants can only be viewed when using a desktop, laptop, iPad or tablet to join a meeting.



- To view all participants, select “Participants”:

# To Raise Hand During Meeting

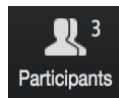
Participants who wish to speak should use the “raise hand” feature to get the attention of the host. The host can see who has raised their hand and in what order. The host will recognize participants by name to allow them speaking time.

## **From a phone:**

- Press \*9

## **From a desktop or laptop:**

- Select “Participants”:

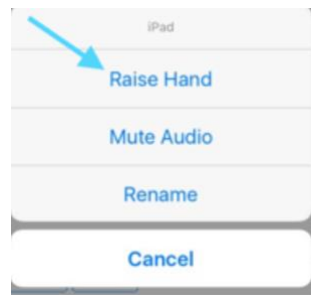
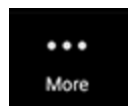


- Select “Raise Hand”:



## **From an iPad or tablet:**

- Select “More”:



- Select “Raise Hand”:

# Committee on Oversight and Reform

## Zoom Best Practices

### *Use a Neutral Background*

**Choose a simple and neutral background to minimize distractions.**

- ◆ Avoid busy backgrounds, such as backgrounds with numerous artifacts and paintings, or backgrounds with bold prints and patterns.
- ◆ Remove clutter and personal items you do not intend to share in your background.

### *Use Proper Lighting*

**Place your light source in front rather than in back of you.**

- ◆ Front-facing natural light is best. If possible, position your computer or personal device in front of a window to ensure the light is hitting your face straight-on.
- ◆ If your room lacks ample sunlight, place a lamp or other lighting (e.g., soft florescent lighting) in front of you, but behind or next to your computer or personal device. Try to avoid mixing light sources (e.g., lamp + sunlight).
- ◆ Avoid sitting with your back to a lamp or a window.

## *Adjust Your Camera*

**Sit at or slightly above eye level, and approximately an arm's length from the camera lens.**

- ◆ If you do not have the right equipment or desk configuration to position your device at eye level, try stacking it on top of flat, sturdy household items, such as books.
- ◆ Try to position yourself so that your video shows your face and midsection up.
- ◆ For smartphones, iPads, or tablets users, use an adjustable stand such as a tripod. Do not hold iPads or smartphones in your hands.
- ◆ For smartphones users, position your phone horizontally, rather than vertically, to capture your video.
- ◆ When recognized for questions, do not look at the video feed, the Participant panel, or the chat window—look straight into the camera.

## *Check Your Sound*

**Make sure that you sound clear and minimize any echo.**

- ◆ Rooms with blank walls and hard surfaces can cause echoing. You can break up echoes by padding your space with soft surfaces like a rug, or tossing pillows around the room.
- ◆ For the sharpest, clearest sound, try using a standalone microphone (e.g., headphones or earbuds). To avoid latency, use wired headphones.

## *Check Your Connection*

**Optimize your video performance by checking your internet connection.**

- ◆ Close all applications—except Zoom—on your computer or personal device.
- ◆ If you are connected to Wi-Fi, move closer to your router. However, for the best internet connection, connect your device to the router directly (e.g., ethernet).