

TRUMP IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY · Published November 6 · Last Update November 7

'Coup has started,' whistleblower's attorney said in 2017 posts calling for impeachment



By Gregg Re | Fox News



Hannity: Whistleblower lawyer is a Trump-hater

Whistleblower attorney called for 'coup' and 'rebellion' against Trump in 2017.

[Mark Zaid](#), one of the attorneys representing the intelligence community whistleblower at the center of the Democrats' ongoing impeachment inquiry, tweeted conspicuously in January 2017 that a "coup has started" and that "impeachment will follow ultimately."

Then, in July 2017, Zaid remarked, "I predict [@CNN](#) will play a key role in [@realDonaldTrump](#) not finishing out his full term as president." Also that month, Zaid tweeted, "We will get rid of him, and this country is strong enough to survive even him and his supporters."

Amid a slew of impeachment-related posts, Zaid assured his Twitter followers that "as one falls, two more will take their place," apparently referring to Trump administration employees who defy the White House. Zaid promised that the "coup" would occur in "many steps."

The tweets, which came shortly after President Trump fired then-acting Attorney General Sally Yates for failing to defend federal laws in court, are likely to fuel Republican concerns that the anonymous whistleblower's complaint is tainted with partisanship. Trump's call with Ukraine's leader, which is the subject of the complaint, occurred in July 2019.

"The whistleblower's lawyer gave away the game," the Trump campaign's communications director, Tim Murtaugh, told Fox News. "It was always the Democrats' plan to stage a coup and impeach President Trump and all they ever needed was the right scheme. They whiffed on Mueller so now they've settled on the perfectly fine Ukraine phone call. This proves this was orchestrated from the beginning."

Added [House GOP leader Kevin McCarthy](#): "We should take [Zaid] at his word that this is a coordinated, premeditated plot to overturn the election."

[AT LOUISIANA RALLY WEDS NIGHT, TRUMP QUOTES FOX NEWS ARTICLE ON 'SLEAZEBALL' WHISTLEBLOWER ATTY](#)

Trump has repeatedly accused Democrats and partisans in the intelligence community of effectively plotting a coup against him, through selective leaks and lengthy investigations.



Mark S. Zaid
@MarkSZaidEsq

[#coup](#) has started. First of many steps. [#rebellion](#).
[#impeachment](#) will follow ultimately. [#lawyers](#)
[twitter.com/jaketapper/sta...](https://twitter.com/jaketapper/status/821111111111111111)

Jake Tapper @jaketapper

.@POTUS fires acting AG Sally Yates for "refusing to enforce a legal order designed to protect the citizens" of US

Statement on the Appointment of Dana Boente as Acting Attorney General

Today at 9:17 PM

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 30, 2017

Statement on the Appointment of Dana Boente as Acting Attorney General

The acting Attorney General, Sally Yates, has betrayed the Department of Justice by refusing to enforce a legal order designed to protect the citizens of the United States. This order was approved as to form and legality by the Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel.

Ms. Yates is an Obama Administration appointee who is weak on borders and very weak on illegal immigration.

It is time to get serious about protecting our country. Calling for tougher vetting for individuals travelling from seven dangerous places is not extreme. It is reasonable and necessary to protect our country.

Tonight, President Trump relieved Ms. Yates of her duties and subsequently named Dana Boente, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, to serve as Acting Attorney General until Senator Jeff Sessions is finally confirmed by the Senate, where he is being wrongly held up by Democrat senators for strictly political reasons.

"I am honored to serve President Trump in this role until Senator Sessions is confirmed. I will defend and enforce the laws of our country to ensure that our people and our nation are protected," said Dana Boente, Acting Attorney General.

###

1,694 9:54 PM - Jan 30, 2017

[6,338 people are talking about this](#)

"45 years from now we might be recalling stories regarding the impeachment of [@realDonaldTrump](#). I'll be old, but will be worth the wait," Zaid wrote in June 2017.

He emphasized his interest in impeachment in a variety of other posts.

"Johnson (1868), Nixon (1973), Clinton (1998) impeachment hearings. Next up [@realDonaldTrump](#) (2017)," he said in May.

In a statement to Fox News on Wednesday, Zaid defended his posts as common sentiments.

"Those tweets were reflective and repeated the sentiments of millions of people," Zaid said. "I was referring to a completely lawful process of what President Trump would likely face as a result of stepping over the line, and that particularly whatever would happen would come about as a result of lawyers. The coup comment referred to those working inside the Administration who were already, just a week into office, standing up to him to enforce recognized rules of law."

Fox News has previously reported on social media posts by Zaid that highlighted what appeared to be open animus toward the president.

Although Zaid described Democratic House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., as a "[mature professional](#)," and circulated articles that touted the reliability of the [largely discredited Steele dossier](#) used by the FBI to surveil a former member of Trump's campaign, Zaid has repeatedly unloaded on the president in no uncertain terms.



Mark S. Zaid

@MarkSZaidEsq

And 45 years from now we might be recalling stories regarding the impeachment of [@realDonaldTrump](#). I'll be old, but will be worth the wait [twitter.com/NatashaBertrand...](https://twitter.com/NatashaBertrand)

Natasha Bertrand @NatashaBertrand

Woodward and Bernstein published their first Watergate story 45 years ago today. (h/t @axios)

The Weather

211 7:55 PM - Jun 19, 2017

353 people are talking about this



President Trump @POTUS · Jan 30, 2017

Statement on the Appointment of Dana Boente as Acting Attorney General: [facebook.com/DonaldTrump/po...](https://www.facebook.com/DonaldTrump/po...)



Mark S. Zaid
@MarkSZaidEsq

[#coup](#) has started. As one falls, two more will take their place.
[#rebellion](#) [#impeachment](#)

582 9:52 PM - Jan 30, 2017

1,692 people are talking about this

"I'm not a Trump fan," Zaid said [on a podcast last year](#). "I go out of my way on Twitter to say '#Resistance.' It's not a resistance against the GOP or a Republican -- I don't think [Trump] is a Republican, quite frankly." (Zaid also boasted that he has sued "every" president since 1993, and pursues "them all," regardless of party affiliation.)

WHISTLEBLOWER CHECKED FORM INDICATING 'FIRSTHAND' KNOWLEDGE -- CONTRARY TO CONGRESSIONAL DOCS

Also in the podcast, Zaid acknowledged that he had been fishing for plaintiffs to launch a lawsuit concerning the Trump hotel in Washington, D.C., alleging unfair competition by the president and his associates.

"The unfair competition becomes, when Donald Trump became president, he has exploited his use of the presidency, of the Oval Office. ... to send business to the hotel. ... We identified this as a cause of action, and we were looking for a plaintiff, and we finally found this one restaurant that was willing," Zaid admitted. A federal judge dismissed the lawsuit last year.



Mark S. Zaid
@MarkSZaidEsq

Johnson (1868), Nixon (1973), Clinton (1998) impeachment hearings. Next up [@realDonaldTrump](#) (2017)



73 6:07 PM - May 9, 2017

[88 people are talking about this](#)

Zaid also had something of an open casting call for whistleblowers on Twitter as Trump took office, writing that CIA employees should "come to" his law firm "to lawfully challenge" the new president.

Zaid publicly requested that celebrities Debra Messing, Nancy Sinatra, Cher and Rob Reiner help promote his whistleblower law firm.

"@cher please check out our new whistleblower page," Zaid wrote in one tweet, which garnered no response from the famed singer.

In February, Zaid escalated his pitch to Reiner, asserting that "we have a chance to depose" Trump in court. At one point last year, Zaid even pitched his services to Michael Avenatti, after the now-embattled attorney mentioned that he was "now representing whistleblowers within ICE."

Another of the whistleblower's attorneys, Andrew Bakaj, tweeted in August 2017 that Trump should be removed under the 25th Amendment, which applies to incapacitated presidents.



David Gergen @David_Gergen · Aug 17, 2017

Sen Corker (R-Tenn) bravely argues Trump hasn't shown stability, competence needed in WH. His views deserve serious attn [@cnn](#) [@AC360](#)



Andrew P. Bakaj
@AndrewBakaj

The 25th Amendment concerns [@POTUS](#)' inability to discharge the powers and duties of office. Says nothing about mental health. We're there.

5 7:52 PM - Aug 17, 2017

[See Andrew P. Bakaj's other Tweets](#)

The posts have surfaced as Republicans demand that the anonymous whistleblower come forward and testify. On Sunday, House Oversight Committee Ranking Member Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, rejected an offer from Zaid for the whistleblower to anonymously provide written answers to GOP questions.

"Written answers will not provide a sufficient opportunity to probe all the relevant facts and cross-examine the so-called whistleblower," Jordan said. "You don't get to ignite an impeachment effort and never account for your actions and role in orchestrating it."

Zaid acknowledged in a [statement](#) in October that his client "has come into contact with presidential candidates from both parties" -- but insisted that the contact involved the politicians' roles as "elected officials -- not as candidates."



Mark S. Zaid

@MarkSZaidEsq

Not shocking at all. I predict [@CNN](#) will play a key role in [@realDonaldTrump](#) not finishing out his full term as president twitter.com/thehill/status...

The Hill @thehill

NEW POLL: More Americans trust CNN than Trump hill.cm/7hPAvP6



296 9:25 AM - Jul 4, 2017

[192 people are talking about this](#)

His abrupt disclosure came shortly after The [Washington Examiner](#) reported that Intelligence Community Inspector General Michael Atkinson told lawmakers the whistleblower worked "or had

some type of professional relationship” with one of the Democratic presidential candidates, citing three sources familiar with Atkinson’s interview with lawmakers last month.

Zaid and the other whistleblower attorneys did assert that the whistleblower “has never worked for or advised a political candidate, campaign or party” -- leaving open the possibility that the whistleblower did advise a current 2020 Democratic presidential candidate prior to his or her run for office.

“The whistleblower is not the story,” the attorneys said. “To date, virtually every substantive allegation has been confirmed by other sources. For that reason, the identity of the whistleblower is irrelevant.”

Matt Wolking (Text TRUMP to 88022)
@MattWolking

Lawyer for the anti-Trump whistleblower: “we will get rid of” Trump

Virginia Barnett @Vbarnett323 · 7/1/17
Mark are we really going to be able to get him out? He is dismantling our government department by department. It is really scary.

13 5 9

Mark S. Zaid ✓
@MarkSZaidEsq

Replying to @Vbarnett323 and @realDonaldTrump

It's very scary. We will get rid of him, and this country is strong enough to survive even him and his supporters. We have to.

1,879 1:57 PM - Nov 6, 2019

1,592 people are talking about this

But Republicans have challenged that claim, noting that various statements in the whistleblower claim have seemingly [proved inaccurate](#). For example, the whistleblower complaint stated that Trump made a “specific request that the Ukrainian leader locate and turn over servers used by the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and examined by the U.S. cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike” -- a request that does not appear in the [declassified transcript of the call released by the Trump administration](#). Trump mentioned CrowdStrike, but did not demand the server.

Meanwhile, Democrats on Wednesday [released a transcript](#) of testimony from U.S. diplomat Bill Taylor in which he claimed to have a “clear understanding” that Trump wanted to leverage military aid to Ukraine in return for investigations that could benefit him politically -- while acknowledging he didn't have firsthand knowledge of “what was in the president's mind.”

“That was my clear understanding, security assistance money would not come until the President [of Ukraine] committed to pursue the investigation,” Taylor said.

[READ THE TRANSCRIPT](#)

Taylor is a top U.S. diplomat in Ukraine who has emerged as a key figure of interest in the Trump impeachment inquiry, having alleged a quid pro quo was at play despite White House denials.

The transcript shows that Taylor testified he had been told by other officials that the White House was willing to hold up both military aid and a prospective White House meeting with Ukraine's president to extract a public announcement from Kiev that probes related to election interference and a company linked to former Vice President Joe Biden's son were underway.



Kevin McCarthy

@GOPLeader

The lawyer behind the so-called whistleblower has been calling for a “coup” against the President of the United States since January 2017.

We should take him at his word that this is a coordinated, premeditated plot to overturn the election.[foxnews.com/politics/coup-...](https://www.foxnews.com/politics/coup-...)

'Coup has started,' whistleblower's attorney said in 2017 post...

Mark Zaid, one of the attorneys representing the whistleblower at the center of the Democrats' ongoing impeachment inquiry, tweeted
foxnews.com

40.4K 9:27 PM - Nov 6, 2019

25.8K people are talking about this

"Coup has started. ... We will get rid of him."

— Whistleblower attorney Mark Zaid, in 2017

"That's what Ambassador Sondland said," Taylor said, referring to E.U. ambassador Gordon Sondland. "He said that they were linked. They were linked."

But Republicans have countered that Taylor did not have primary knowledge regarding the key events in question, but rather based his testimony off conversations with others.

TRUMP-UKRAINE HOUSE IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY TO START 'OPEN HEARINGS' NEXT WEEK

In one exchange between GOP Rep. Lee Zeldin and Taylor during his deposition, Taylor was asked whether he had any firsthand knowledge of Trump conditioning an investigation into the 2016 election and the Bidens on military aid.

Taylor said he did not speak to the president, or have any direct communication with the president regarding the requests for investigations. Instead, he said he was basing much of his testimony on what former United States Special Representative for Ukraine Negotiations Kurt Volker and Sondland told him.

Fox News' Alex Pappas contributed to this report.

Gregg Re is a lawyer and editor based in Los Angeles. Follow him on Twitter [@gregg_re](https://twitter.com/gregg_re) or email him at gregory.re@foxnews.com.



Conversation (16,963)



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Jerricho095 ★ Leader · 2d



Zaid has admitted it is a coup. That is Treason, he must be arrested and convicted!

Reply · Share · Report · 1 Like ·

MisterNH ★ Leader · 21 Nov



FBI Agent PAGE: "[Trump's] not ever going to become president, right? Right?!"
FBI Agent STRZOK: "No. No he won't. We'll stop it."

Coup.

Reply · Share · Report · 12 Likes ·

independent2010791 ★ Leader · 15 Nov



Dems will do anything to strip voters of our power.

Reply · Share · Report · 13 Likes ·

fLICKS11 ★ Leader · 15 Nov → independent2010791



What "power" do you imagine has been stripped from you?

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DeeDeeWitch ★ Leader · 15 Nov



The left was screaming IMPEACH before he was even elected. How can any sane person not understand that? They swore that if he was elected, they would remove him. Game, set, match.

Reply · Share · Report · 17 Likes ·

fLICKS11 ★ Leader · 15 Nov → DeeDeeWitch



Really? Who were these dems screaming impeachment before the election?

Reply · Share · Report · 1 Like ·

Show 2 more replies ▾



ImFranklySpeaking ★ Leader · 15 Nov



TRUMP IN 2020!

Reply · Share · Report · 12 Likes ·

fLICKS11 ★ Leader · 15 Nov



So a private citizen used a term the President had been using while calling for his impeachment. So what? Last time I checked Trump hasn't managed to make it illegal to denigrate him or his administration!

Reply · Share · Report · 1 Like ·



Mozart · 3d → fLICKS11



what are you referring to? your statement doesn't make much sense.

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elguti247 ★ Leader · 15 Nov



This man is the poster child for the liberal socialist anti American democrat party and the fact that the resistance began the very day President Trump was elected should concern all freedom loving, rule of law loving American citizens.

Reply · Share · Report · 13 Likes ·



DeeDeeWitch ★ Leader · 15 Nov → elguti247



BEFORE he was elected. They were threatening that IF he was elected, they would impeach him. They flatly refuse to understand that the normal citizenry of the US is tired of their self-serving, anti-American agenda.

Reply · Share · Report · 10 Likes ·



Ifindoubt ★ Leader · 15 Nov



Are the dems hinting that President Trump is the first US president that is trying to make sure our foreign aid is spend wisely and not given to the internal corruption of foreign countries?

Reply · Share · Report · 13 Likes ·

fLICKS11 ★ Leader · 15 Nov → Ifindoubt



Really? Other than investigating a political rival, where has President Trump held aid while investigating corruption? We know he's cut the State Department's anti-corruption budget by 30%!

Reply · Share · Report ·



Twoballcane2.0 ★ Leader · 15 Nov

Show 2 more replies ▾



Super shady stuff.

Reply · Share · Report ·



Prussell1970 ★ Leader · 15 Nov



Pretty sure WE hired him to step on establishment toes... Well Done Mr. President!
TRUMP 2020 TERM LIMITS 2020

Reply · Share · Report · 13 Likes ·

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