



**President Trump's New Gilded Age:
How Trump's Department of Justice is Promoting Political and
Corporate Corruption to Benefit His Most Loyal Supporters**

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Immediately after President Trump assumed office, the Administration began purging experienced career civil servants throughout the Department of Justice (DOJ), clearing out the leadership ranks of national security and public corruption prosecutors, replacing them with inexperienced sycophants. At the same time, the Administration has taken steps to suppress anti-corruption prosecutions and investigations, disbanding critical task forces at DOJ and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and halting the enforcement of anti-corruption laws. Recently, the Trump DOJ attempted to enter into a corrupt *quid pro quo* with indicted New York City Mayor Eric Adams, essentially forcing multiple veteran prosecutors, including staunch conservatives, to resign rather than follow through on unlawful and unethical orders from Acting Deputy Attorney General Emil Bove. Together, these efforts threaten effective law enforcement, undermine public confidence in the rule of law, and foster networks of corruption and lawlessness that ultimately make our communities less safe. Under President Trump, the DOJ has become an agency charged with ensuring that the President's most loyal supporters can break the law with impunity.

I. THE TRUMP DOJ IS ALREADY A LAWLESS DEPARTMENT THAT PROTECTS THOSE MOST LOYAL TO THE PRESIDENT AND CARRIES OUT HIS DEMANDS FOR REVENGE AND RETRIBUTION

Donald Trump's time as president and as a presidential candidate has been defined by his desire for vengeance against people whom he believes have wronged him. During his first term, he demanded retribution against FBI leadership under Director James Comey for initiating the investigation into Russian election interference. During his 2024 campaign, Donald Trump made more than 100 threats to prosecute or punish his political enemies, particularly members of the January 6th Committee.¹ Moreover, during a March 2023 speech at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), then-presidential candidate Trump said: "I am your warrior. I am your justice. And for those who have been wronged and betrayed: I am your retribution."² He also asked several of his close advisers, including at least one of his personal attorneys, if they knew all the names of senior FBI agents and Justice Department personnel who have worked on the federal probes into him.³

Since taking office, President Trump and members of his Administration have made good on their promise to seek retribution and have weaponized the federal government in order to achieve that goal. As mentioned in the following section of this report, the Trump Administration has begun a wholesale purge of career government officials at the FBI and DOJ. However, the Administration's actions do not stop there. Shortly after taking office, Attorney General (AG) Pam Bondi launched a "Weaponization Working Group" to investigate prosecutions against President Trump, including his 34-count felony conviction and the \$486 million civil fraud judgment against

¹ Tom Dreisbach, *Trump has made more than 100 threats to prosecute or punish perceived enemies*, NPR (Oct. 22, 2024), <https://www.npr.org/2024/10/21/nx-s1-5134924/trump-election-2024-kamala-harris-elizabeth-cheney-threat-civil-liberties>.

² *Former Pres. Trump: "I Am Your Justice...I Am Your Retribution"*, C-SPAN (Mar. 4, 2023), <https://www.c-span.org/clip/campaign-2024/former-pres-trump-i-am-your-justice-i-am-your-retribution/5060238>.

³ Ken Dilanian, Jonathan Dienst, Ryan J. Reilly & Tom Winter, *Names of FBI agents who investigated Capitol riots to be handed over to Trump DOJ officials*, NBC NEWS (Feb. 3, 2025), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/names-fbi-agents-investigated-capitol-riots-handed-trump-officials-rcna189642>.

him in New York.⁴ The Trump Administration has also pardoned more than 1,500 people charged in connection with the Capitol attack on January 6, 2021, ordered the Justice Department investigate thousands of career federal prosecutors and FBI employees, and directed federal prosecutors with the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York (SDNY) to drop corruption charges against New York City Mayor Eric Adams.⁵

Perhaps, the most chilling actions have come from the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia. Earlier this week, news reports revealed that Edward Martin, the Interim U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, had begun an investigation of statements made by Democratic political figures, which he coined “Operation Whirlwind.”⁶ This investigation began with a “letter of inquiry” to Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer about his March 2020 statement that Supreme Court Justices Brett Kavanaugh and Neil Gorsuch would “pay the price” if they voted to restrict abortion rights.⁷ Senator Schumer’s Chief of Staff responded to Mr. Martin’s allegations by highlighting a subsequent speech that Senator Schumer made on the Senate floor, in which he said: “My point was that there would be political consequences...for President Trump and Senate Republicans if the Supreme Court, with the newly confirmed Justices, stripped away a woman’s right to choose.”⁸ In addition to Senator Schumer, Representative Robert Garcia also received a letter from Mr. Martin regarding his statements about Elon Musk.⁹ As Rep. Garcia has pointed out, Mr. Martin’s letters of inquiry are threats that clearly infringe on the First Amendment and are an attempt to silence speech that Elon Musk and the Trump Administration disagree with.¹⁰

In addition to his investigation of Democratic political leaders, Mr. Martin has ordered top officials in his office to undertake an internal review of its handling of Capitol riot prosecutions, particularly the office’s decision to charge more than 250 Capitol riot defendants with obstructing an official proceeding of Congress.¹¹ Last June, the Supreme Court adopted a narrower interpretation of the obstruction statute, holding that “the Government must establish that the defendant impaired the availability or integrity for use in an official proceeding of records, documents, objects, or . . . other things used in the proceeding, or attempted to do so.”¹²

Although the Circuit Court for the District Court of Columbia ruled consistent with how January 6 defendants were charged, in an email announcing the internal review, Mr. Martin said,

⁴ Cristine Soto DeBerry, Opinion, *Our justice system held Trump accountable. Now he's weaponizing AG, DOJ against it.*, USA TODAY (Feb. 19, 2025), <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2025/02/19/trump-eric-adams-accountability-prosecutors/78472835007/>.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Steve Benen, *Trump-appointed prosecutor kicks off ‘Operation Whirlwind,’ eyes Schumer*, MSNBC (Feb. 19, 2025), <https://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow-show/maddowblog/trump-appointed-prosecutor-kicks-operation-whirlwind-eyes-schumer-rcna192878>.

⁷ *Read interim U.S. attorney Ed Martin’s letters to Democratic lawmakers*, WASH. POST (Feb. 19, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2025/02/19/ed-martin-dc-letters-schumer-garcia/>.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Robert Garcia (@RobertGarcia), X (Feb. 20, 2025, 2:55 PM), <https://x.com/RobertGarcia/status/1892664373463683535>.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ Spencer S. Hsu, Keith L. Alexander & Tom Jackman, *Interim D.C. U.S. attorney Ed Martin launches probe of Jan. 6 prosecutions*, WASH. POST (Jan. 27, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2025/01/27/edward-martin-us-attorney-jan6/>.

¹² Fischer Decision at p. 16

“Obviously, the use was a great failure of our office ... and we need to get to the bottom of it.” Mr. Martin then instructed personnel to deliver “all information you have related to the use of 1512 charges including all files, documents, notes, emails and other information.”¹³

The Trump Administration has also taken a number of actions to abolish and stifle anti-corruption efforts. On February 5, 2025, AG Bondi circulated a memo that, among other things, announced the elimination of the KleptoCapture Task Force, the Kleptocracy Team, and the Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Initiative (KARI).¹⁴ The Task Force served as an interagency task force designed to enforce the sanctions, export restrictions, and other measures that the United States had imposed on Russia after its invasion of Ukraine.¹⁵ KARI had been established by DOJ in 2010 to bring together prosecutors, financial experts, and investigators to “hold corrupt actors and enablers accountable under the law and to return recovered funds for the benefit of the people harmed by the corruption.”¹⁶ Between the establishment of KARI and December 2023, the program had recovered \$1.7 billion, with more than \$1.6 billion returned to those harmed by corruption efforts.¹⁷ These initiatives have been critical to DOJ’s targeting and seizure of ill-gotten assets of corrupt foreign actors in several countries, including Russia and China.¹⁸ A leading anti-corruption NGO has noted that the elimination of these initiatives “will significantly diminish the U.S.’s ability to counter the transnational corruption that continues to threaten core U.S. security and economic interests[.]”¹⁹

On February 5, AG Bondi also announced that “The National Security Division's Corporate Enforcement Unit is also disbanded. Personnel assigned to the Unit shall return to their previous posts.”²⁰ This unit was responsible for holding largescale companies accountable if they violated U.S. national security law, including sanctions evasion, export control violations, and similar economic crimes.²¹ This unit would be responsible for holding corporate actors accountable that

¹³Spencer S. Hsu, Keith L. Alexander & Tom Jackman, *Interim D.C. U.S. attorney Ed Martin launches probe of Jan. 6 prosecutions*, WASH. POST (Jan. 27, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2025/01/27/edward-martin-us-attorney-jan6/>.

¹⁴ Memorandum, *Total Elimination of Cartels and Transnational Criminal Organizations* The Attorney General, U.S. DEP’T OF JUSTICE (Feb. 5, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/ag/media/1388546/dl?inline>; Press Release, *Attorney General Memorandum Redirects U.S. Anti-Corruption Efforts Raising Questions and Concerns*, TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL (Feb. 6, 2025), <https://us.transparency.org/news/attorney-general-memorandum-raises-questions-around-enforcement-of-transnational-anti-corruption-laws/>.

¹⁵ Press Release, *Attorney General Merrick B. Garland Announces Launch of Task Force KleptoCapture*, U.S. DEP’T OF JUSTICE (March 2, 2022), <https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/attorney-general-merrick-b-garland-announces-launch-task-force-kleptocapture>.

¹⁶ Press Release, *Deputy Assistant Attorney General Kevin Driscoll Delivers Remarks at the Global Forum on Asset Recovery Action Series in Atlanta*, U.S. DEP’T OF JUSTICE (Dec. 12, 2023), <https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/speech/deputy-assistant-attorney-general-kevin-driscoll-delivers-remarks-global-forum-asset>.

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ Press Release, *Attorney General Memorandum Redirects U.S. Anti-Corruption Efforts Raising Questions and Concerns*, Transparency International U.S. (Feb. 6, 2025) (online at <https://us.transparency.org/news/attorney-general-memorandum-raises-questions-around-enforcement-of-transnational-anti-corruption-laws/>).

²⁰ Memorandum, *General Policy Regarding Charging, Plea Negotiations, and Sentencing*, The Attorney General, U.S. DEP’T OF JUSTICE (Feb. 5, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/ag/media/1388541/dl>.

²¹ Press Release, *Justice Department’s National Security Division Announces Key Corporate Enforcement Appointments*, U.S. DEP’T OF JUSTICE (Sept. 11, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/justice-departments-national-security-division-announces-key-corporate-enforcement> ; *Focusing the Spotlight: DOJ*

help foreign adversaries like Russia, China, North Korea, and Iran evade U.S. national security law and sanctions.

In an Executive Order issued February 10, 2025, President Trump additionally halted the enforcement of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) for 180 days and called for the “review in detail all existing FCPA investigations and enforcement actions,” claiming [the FCPA] “has been systematically, and to a steadily increasing degree, stretched beyond proper bounds and abused in a manner that harms the interests of the United States.”²² The FCPA has existed since 1977 to prohibit U.S. businesses and their agents from bribing foreign officials abroad related to their businesses, and generally require recordkeeping to “provide reasonable assurances that transactions are executed and assets are accessed and accounted for in accordance with management's authorization.”²³

II. PRESIDENT TRUMP IS PURGING EXPERIENCED CAREER CIVIL SERVANTS THROUGHOUT THE DOJ AND REPLACING THEM WITH JUNIOR SYCOPHANTS, MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES LESS SAFE

The Trump Administration has launched an unprecedented and all-out purge at the DOJ, including its components like the FBI, by firing, demoting, and removing career employees, including the most experienced investigators and senior prosecutors charged with enforcing federal law.

The actions below detail the purges that the Trump Administration has engaged in since assuming office.

- **Experienced DOJ leadership responsible for combatting corruption and enforcing ethical and recusal rules has been eviscerated.** More than 20 veteran DOJ prosecutors and experts, including the leaders of vital sections, have been replaced by loyalist political employees who put President Trump’s unconstitutional agenda above the rule of law.
- **The Public Integrity Section has been gutted.** President Trump forced out the longtime head of the anti-corruption section, and five additional attorneys—including two of its top lawyers—resigned in protest rather than comply with Acting Deputy Attorney General Emil Bove’s demand that the Section dismiss corruption charges against Mayor Adams.

Focuses on National Security in Corporate Criminal Enforcement, CROWELL, <https://www.crowell.com/en/insights/client-alerts/focusing-the-spotlight-doj-focuses-on-national-security-in-corporate-criminal-enforcement> (last visited Feb. 22, 2025).

²² Executive Order, *Pausing Foreign Corrupt Practices Act Enforcement to Further American Economic and National Security* (Feb. 10, 2025) www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/02/pausing-foreign-corrupt-practices-act-enforcement-to-further-american-economic-and-national-security/ ; Department of Justice, *Foreign and Corrupt Practices Act Unit*, <https://www.justice.gov/criminal/criminal-fraud/foreign-corrupt-practices-act> (last visited Feb. 16, 2025).

²³ U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, *Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA)*, <https://www.sec.gov/enforcement/foreign-corrupt-practices-act> (last visited Feb. 22, 2025).

- **Seasoned D.C. prosecutors and FBI agents have been sacked as punishment for working on January 6th cases, as assigned.** Mr. Martin fired dozens of career prosecutors in his office for simply having worked on January 6th cases, as assigned, many of whom were currently working to combat violent crime in the District of Columbia. Moreover, the FBI has begun a review of thousands of career agents to evaluate them for potential dismissal, simply for having investigated the January 6th attack as instructed.
- **SDNY has become a tool of corruption and quid pro quos.** Seven experienced federal prosecutors have resigned from their roles rather than carry out unlawful directives from the Trump Administration to protect New York City Mayor Adams. This includes Danielle Sassoon, the Acting U.S. Attorney for SDNY, as well as Assistant U.S. Attorney Hagan Scotten. Moreover, John Keller, the acting head of the DOJ Public Integrity Section, and Kevin Driscoll, the senior-most career official leading the DOJ's Criminal Division, also resigned rather than carry out the dismissal of the Adams case after Ms. Sassoon resigned.²⁴
- **The government lost a top criminal prosecutor in D.C.** Denise Cheung, a 24-year veteran of the DOJ and head of the criminal division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, resigned rather than comply with directives to open investigations into the Biden Administration without sufficient evidence.²⁵

These firings and reassignments throughout the Department are detailed below.

A. Firings, Reassignments, and Forced Resignations of DOJ Prosecutors

Within just hours of taking office, on January 20, 2025, President Trump summarily removed top career officials from key positions at the DOJ's National Security, Criminal, Civil Rights, and Environment and Natural Resources Divisions.²⁶ This includes the reassignment of at least 20 key career officials at the DOJ to different positions, some of whom were senior career leaders in the national security and criminal sections.²⁷ Career officials that were reassigned include Bruce Swartz, the long-term head of the Department's Office of International Affairs, which handles extradition matters,²⁸ as well as Bradley Weinsheimer, the DOJ's seniormost career

²⁴ Ryan Lucas & Carrie Johnson, *3 top U.S. Prosecutors resign over order to drop NYC Mayor Eric Adams corruption case*, NPR (Feb. 13, 2025, 6:11 PM), <https://www.npr.org/2025/02/13/nx-s1-5297120/eric-adams-federal-prosecutors-resignations>.

²⁵ Ryan J. Reilly, *Veteran federal prosecutor resigns over bank freeze order from Trump appointee*, NBC NEWS (Feb. 18, 2025, 4:23 PM), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/veteran-federal-prosecutor-resigns-bank-freeze-order-trump-appointee-rcna192619>.

²⁶ Perry Stein & Ellen Nakashima, *Justice Dept. removes senior career officials from key positions*, WASH. POST (Jan. 21, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/01/21/justice-trump-removes-senior-staffers-national-security-criminal/>.

²⁷ Eric Tucker, *Key career officials at Justice Department reassigned to different positions, AP sources say*, PBS NEWS (Jan. 22, 2025), <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/key-career-officials-at-justice-department-reassigned-to-different-positions-ap-sources-say>.

²⁸ *Id.*

official specializing in ethics and recusal issues. Both resigned rather than accept a demotion and reassignment.²⁹

Also, within hours of taking office, President Trump moved to reassign Corey Amundson, the top corruption prosecutor at the Department's Public Integrity Section, who resigned rather than be reassigned to a newly created task force targeting Sanctuary Cities.³⁰ This section has also recently been swept up into the Eric Adams prosecution.³¹

On February 13, 2025, Acting Deputy Attorney General Emil Bove instructed the Acting U.S. Attorney for the SDNY, Danielle Sassoon, to drop the corruption charges filed against New York City Mayor Eric Adams, in order to allow Mr. Adams more bandwidth to enforce President Trump's immigration agenda.³² Ms. Sassoon resigned rather than comply with the demand, noting that the request was "inconsistent with [her] ability and duty to prosecute federal crimes without fear or favor and to advance good-faith arguments before the courts" and describing Mayor Adams's teams efforts to obtain a quid pro quo in exchange for dismissal.³³ The SDNY prosecutors who worked on the case with Ms. Sassoon were put on administrative leave for also refusing to obey the order to file for dismissal, and the lead prosecutor on the case, Hagan Scotten, also resigned on February 14, 2025.³⁴ Mr. Bove then transferred the case over to the DOJ's Public Integrity Section, demanding that the Section designate someone to dismiss the case against Mayor Adams.³⁵ This led to the resignation of two senior lawyers, plus another three attorneys in the Section, in protest.³⁶ The motion to dismiss was ultimately filed by Mr. Bove and Edward Sullivan, a veteran public corruption prosecutor in the Section, who reportedly agreed to file it "to avoid a mass firing of prosecutors and allow his colleagues time to seek jobs elsewhere."³⁷

On January 27, 2025, President Trump also fired more than a dozen career prosecutors who previously worked on Special Counsel Jack Smith's team.³⁸ The Acting Attorney General told them: "I do not believe that the leadership of the department can trust you to assist in implementing the president's agenda faithfully."³⁹ Notably, federal civil service laws forbid partisan

²⁹ Sarah N. Lynch, *US Justice Department senior career ethics official removed from post, source says*, REUTERS (Jan. 27, 2025), <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-justice-department-senior-career-ethics-official-removed-post-source-says-2025-01-27/>.

³⁰ Hannah Rabinowitz, et al., *How Trump's Justice Department has gutted the government's ability to chase public corruption*, CNN POLITICS (Feb. 14, 2025, 7:38 AM), <https://www.cnn.com/2025/02/14/politics/corruption-justice-department-trump-new-york/index.html>.

³¹ Kara Scannell, et al., *'It was never going to be me': How Trump's DOJ sparked a crisis and mass resignations over the Eric Adams case*, CNN (Feb. 15, 2025, 7:16 AM), <https://www.yahoo.com/news/never-going-trump-doj-sparked-233138140.html>.

³² William K. Rashbaum, et al., *Order to Drop Adams Case Prompts Resignations In New York and Washington*, N.Y. TIMES (Feb. 13, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/13/nyregion/danielle-sassoon-quit-eric-adams.html>.

³³ *Id.*

³⁴ *Id.*; Jeremy Roebuck, et al., *Justice Officials move to drop Adams case After 7 lawyers refuse, resign in protest*, WASH. POST (Feb. 14, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/02/14/justice-prosecutors-resignation-trump-eric-adams-corruption/>.

³⁵ Roebuck, et al., *supra* at note 11.

³⁶ *Id.*; Rashbaum, et al., *supra* at note 9; Lucas & Johnson, *supra* at note 1.

³⁷ *Id.*

³⁸ Glenn Thrush, et al., *Justice Dept. Fires Prosecutors Who Worked on Trump Investigations*, N.Y. TIMES (Jan. 27, 2025), *Trump Administration Fires Prosecutors Who Aided Jack Smith Investigations* - The New York Times.

³⁹ *Id.*

discrimination and political retribution, and also clearly prevent retaliation against DOJ prosecutors for the crime of doing their jobs as assigned.⁴⁰

On January 20, 2025, President Trump named Edward Martin as Interim U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, and on February 17, 2025, nominated him to serve as the U.S. Attorney in this position.⁴¹ Mr. Martin is an election-denying criminal defense attorney for January 6th rioters who, within days of taking this position, launched a probe into the office's prosecutors who worked on January 6th cases.⁴² On January 31, 2025, Mr. Martin fired dozens of these career prosecutors in his office, simply for having worked on January 6th prosecutions as they were directed to do by their superiors.⁴³ At the time of their firing, these experienced non-political prosecutors were assigned to tackling serious crime throughout D.C., including drug crimes, domestic violence, and property crime—immediately putting Washington, D.C. residents at greater risk.

On Tuesday, February 21, 2025, President Trump announced that he instructed the DOJ to fire *any* remaining U.S. attorneys installed by the Biden Administration, in an effort to clean out any remaining appointees who may resist President Trump's tyrannical government agenda.⁴⁴ Those firings began Wednesday, February 13, 2025, before his Truth Social announcement, when some holdover U.S. attorneys from the Biden Administration received an abrupt email notifying them of their dismissals and disconnection from their access to government phones and computers.⁴⁵ It was done so chaotically that some emails went to internal emails that they no longer had access to, meaning U.S. attorneys, the chief law enforcement officers in their respective federal districts, were left scrambling and trying to guess whether they had a job or not until days later.⁴⁶ In a major departure from common practice, the Trump Administration did not coordinate removal of U.S. attorneys with DOJ's Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys (EOUSA).⁴⁷

B. Firings, Reassignments, and Forced Resignations of FBI Agents

Within ten days of taking office, the Trump Administration demoted all six of the seniormost career FBI officials—Executive Assistant Directors who lead the FBI's National Security; Intelligence; Criminal, Cyber, Response, and Services; Science and Technology,

⁴⁰ *Id.*

⁴¹ Press Release, U.S. Att'y's Off. D.C., Edward R. Martin, Jr. Appointed U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia (Jan. 27, 2025)(on file with the Committee); Hailey Chi-Sing, *Trump nominates Jan. 6 defense attorney for top prosecutor role in DC*, FOX NEWS (Feb. 18, 2025), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-nominates-jan-6-defense-attorney-top-prosecutor-role-dc>.

⁴² Spencer S. Hsu, et. al., *Interim D.C. U.S. attorney Ed Martin launches probe of Jan. 6 prosecutions*, WASH. POST (Jan. 27, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2025/01/27/edward-martin-us-attorney-jan6/>.

⁴³ Kyle Cheney & Josh Gerstein, *DOJ fires dozens of prosecutors who handled Jan. 6 cases*, POLITICO (Jan. 31, 2025), <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/01/31/doj-purges-prosecutors-january-6-cases-00201904>.

⁴⁴ Hugo Lowell, *Trump orders justice department to fire all US attorneys appointed by Biden*, THE GUARDIAN (Feb. 19, 2025), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/feb/19/trump-justice-department-biden-attorneys>.

⁴⁵ Ben Pen, *Trump Said to Terminate Biden Holdover US Attorneys from DOJ*, BLOOMBERG LAW (Feb. 12, 2025), <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/us-law-week/trump-ousts-biden-holdover-us-attorneys-from-justice-department>.

⁴⁶ Lowell, *supra* at note 22.

⁴⁷ Pen, *supra* at note 23.

Information and Technology; and Human Resources branches.⁴⁸ All of these individuals had spent decades with the FBI working their way into these leadership positions under administrations of both parties.⁴⁹

In these early days, the Trump Administration also forced the Special Agents in Charge (SACs) of multiple FBI offices to either resign or be fired.⁵⁰ This includes the Field Office in Washington, D.C., which has grave implications on national security given its jurisdiction over many federal government buildings and operations; the Field Office in New Orleans, just days before the city was to host the Super Bowl on February 9; and the Field Offices in Las Vegas and Miami.⁵¹

Amid these removals, a memo sent on January 31, 2025, indicated that Acting Deputy Attorney General Bove ordered the targeting and review of every FBI agent who ever investigated a January 6th case, in order to begin “a review process to determine whether any additional personnel actions are necessary.”⁵² On February 4, 2025, identifying information for over 5,000 FBI officials who worked on these cases was turned over to DOJ leadership.⁵³ In response, FBI agents filed two lawsuits against the DOJ and then-Acting Attorney General James McHenry to prevent the disclosure of this list by Trump allies, which they worry would put both the named agents and their families at risk of harm, especially since some January 6th defendants who were pardoned allegedly “link to each other in posts promoting violence and insurrection against law enforcement agents.”⁵⁴ On February 7, 2025, the FBI reached an agreement with the plaintiffs not to release any agents’ names without two days’ notice.⁵⁵

C. Firings, Reassignments, and Forced Resignations of Other DOJ Officials and Employees

On January 20, 2025, President Trump removed multiple senior leaders of the Justice Department's Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) without cause and without notice.⁵⁶ The firing notice cited a hopelessly vague rationale for their removal, namely “Title II of the Constitution,” which is a textual constitutional provision, not a substantive legal justification

⁴⁸ Ken Dilanian, et. al., *Trump administration forces out multiple senior FBI officials and January 6 prosecutors*, NBC NEWS (Jan. 31, 2025, 6:05 PM), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/trump-administration-forces-multiple-senior-fbi-officials-rcna190138>.

⁴⁹ *Id.*

⁵⁰ *Id.*

⁵¹ *Id.*

⁵² *Id.*

⁵³ Josh Campbell, et. al., *FBI turns over details of 5,000 employees who worked on January 6 cases to Trump Justice Department, as agents sue*, CNN POLITICS (Feb. 4, 2025, 7:27 PM), <https://www.cnn.com/2025/02/04/politics/fbi-employees-tuesday/index.html>.

⁵⁴ Scott McFarlane, et. al., *FBI agents sue Trump administration over Jan. 6 scrutiny as FBI discloses list of over 5,000 agents to DOJ*, CBS NEWS (Feb. 4, 2025, 5:00 PM), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/fbi-agents-sue-trump-administration-jan-6-layoffs/>.

⁵⁵ Robert Legare, et. al., *Justice Department agrees not to publicly reveal names of FBI agents who worked on Jan. 6 cases*, CBS NEWS (Feb. 7, 2025, 3:48 PM), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/justice-department-list-fbi-agents-jan-6-capitol-attack/>.

⁵⁶ Alexander Mallin & Mike Levine, *Multiple immigration-related DOJ officials removed as part of Trump overhaul: Source*, ABC NEWS (Jan. 20, 2025, 9:13 PM), <https://abcnews.go.com/US/multiple-immigration-related-doj-officials-removed-part-trump/story?id=117920486>.

for removing civil service-protected career Department employees. Between February 7 and February 14, 2025, 20 immigration judges were also fired, placing additional strains on already notoriously backlogged dockets in immigration courts.⁵⁷

On the same day, President Trump also forced out the Director of the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) Collette Peters. Ms. Peters is pursuing an appeal through the Merit Systems Protection Board.⁵⁸

On February 20, 2025, the Chief Counsel of the DOJ's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms and Explosives (ATF) was fired and escorted from the building, without an explanation provided by the DOJ.⁵⁹

III. REPUBLICANS ARE RECYCLING TIRED CONSPIRACY THEORIES—LIKE DEBUNKED CLAIMS OF THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION TARGETING CONSERVATIVES—TO DISTRACT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FROM DOJ'S SLIDE INTO LAWLESSNESS

Instead of conducting oversight of the DOJ and the Administration, Committee Republicans are entirely focused on continuing failed investigations started last Congress and aimed largely at the Biden Administration, the Biden family, and baseless claims of a “corrupt” DOJ working to target and silence conservative voices.

These investigations were launched to investigate the following theories, which have been widely debunked and disproven:

- **Big Tech:** Republicans allege that the Biden Administration was “colluding” with “Big Tech” to censor conservative voices, and the Biden Administration was “coercing” these companies to remove right-wing content. In reality, the evidence shows that there was no coercion or collusion between the government and social media companies, and the Supreme Court noted in *dicta* that a district court’s findings of such collusion appeared to be “clearly erroneous.”
- **Targeting Catholic Views:** Republicans allege that the Biden FBI impermissibly linked Catholics’ religious views to violent extremists in violation of the First Amendment by issuing a memorandum that purports to target Catholic views. In reality, an internal review found that the memo was targeting one specific individual, not Catholic views at large. Moreover, both Attorney General Garland and FBI Director Wray criticized the memo, and trainings and disciplinary actions were put into place to prevent such an occurrence from happening again.

⁵⁷ Elliot Spagat, *Justice Department fires 20 immigration judges from backlogged courts amid major government cuts*, AP POLITICS (Feb. 15, 2025, 2:50 PM), <https://apnews.com/article/trump-immigration-court-judges-fired-firings-d35eed0f685739c4a19d4c8baf39113a>.

⁵⁸ *New Administration Highlights: Trump Revokes Biden’s Security Clearance*, N.Y. TIMES (Feb. 7, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2025/02/07/us/trump-administration-updates/the-ousted-director-of-federal-prisons-contests-her-firing-citing-civil-service-rules?smid=url-share>.

⁵⁹ Ken Dilanian (@KenDilanianNBC), X (Feb. 20, 2025, 2:59 PM), <https://x.com/KenDilanianNBC/status/1892665418419937327>.

- **Targeting Parents:** Republicans allege that Attorney General Garland impermissibly linked concerned, law-abiding parents who spoke at schoolboard meetings to domestic terrorists, and used PATRIOT Act investigative tools on them, because they espoused conservative viewpoints and concerns. In reality, Attorney General Garland refuted every claim that parents were being treated as domestic terrorists or that PATRIOT Act tools were being used to target law abiding parents concerned for their children. The word “parent” was not even mentioned in the memo Republicans are so concerned with. The memo was circulated because of increasing violent threats against education officials to keep all such officials safe from harm.
- **A “Witch Hunt” Against Trump Over Classified Documents:** Republicans allege that the Biden DOJ conducted a “witch hunt” against President Trump when the FBI “raided” his home in Mar-a-Lago to retrieve classified documents, and that Attorney General Garland appointed Jack Smith as Special Counsel to launch a “politically motivated” prosecution against President Trump for his handling of those documents. In reality, President Trump knowingly mishandled hundreds of classified documents and put America’s national security directly at risk, and every government witness who worked on the case that interviewed with the Committee explained that the case was handled professionally, without bias, and in accordance with the law.
- **Whistleblower Retaliation:** Republicans allege that the Biden FBI systematically revoked security clearances of its conservative-leaning agents as punishment for their right-wing views. In reality, there is no evidence that the FBI systematically used security clearance revocation to target whistleblowers or conservative-minded employees at the FBI.
- **Discriminating Against Pro-Life Health Centers:** Republicans allege that the Biden Administration selectively enforced the FACE Act, only to protect abortion clinics and never to protect pro-life institutions. In reality, there is no evidence that the Biden Administration selectively enforced the FACE Act, and in fact actively worked to let pro-life centers know they were also protected under this law. This is nothing more than a failed attempt to make it seem like pro-life individuals are under attack.

In reality, Republicans are rehashing these bogus conspiracy theories to gaslight the American public into believing it was President Biden—not Donald Trump—infringing on their civil liberties. Clearly, as detailed in this report, it is Donald Trump’s DOJ that is lawless, discriminatory, and a growing threat to public order and the rights of the people.