

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

April 9, 2025

William R. Bay
President
American Bar Association
321 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60654

Dear President Bay:

As fellow members of the legal community, we applaud lawyers who are resisting President Trump's illegal and unconstitutional attacks on the legal profession.

As you know, between March 6 and March 27 President Trump issued executive orders targeting four law firms against whom he has personal grievances—including representing his political opponents and associating with lawyers who have been critical of the President.¹ The executive orders limit the targeted law firms' access to federal buildings, suspend security clearances, and prevent federal agencies from engaging with firm lawyers.

These orders are unlawful—a tool of intimidation, and a weaponization of the federal government.

The President's actions existentially threaten essential rights guaranteed by our Constitution.

The Sixth Amendment right to counsel is undermined when a president signals that choosing to represent his political opponents carries the risk of retribution.²

The First Amendment protection against viewpoint discrimination is imperiled when a president seeks to punish lawyers who advocate against his policies.³ By levying punishments outside the ordinary legal process, these orders violate Constitutional due process.⁴

¹ Exec Order No. 14230, 90 Fed. Reg. 11781 (Mar. 6, 2025); Exec. Order No. 14237, 90 Fed. Reg. 13039 (Mar. 14, 2025); Exec. Order No. 14246, 90 Fed. Reg. 13997 (Mar. 25, 2025); Exec. Order No. 14250, 90 Fed. Reg. 14549 (Mar. 27, 2025).

² *Legal Services Corporation v. Velazquez*, 531 U.S. 533 (2001).

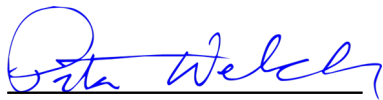
³ *Rosenberger v. Rectors and Visitors of the University of Virginia*, 515 U.S. 819 (1995).

⁴ *Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Comm. v. McGrath*, 341 U.S. 123 (1951) (Frankfurter, J., concurring).

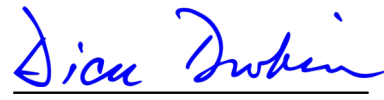
Three firms have rightfully challenged the President's executive orders in court, asserting that they are in violation of the Constitution and the principles that underlie it.⁵ In each of these cases, judges appointed by presidents from both political parties have properly issued temporary restraining orders against the orders.⁶

The American Bar Association has stalwartly supported lawyers that have resisted President Trump's bullying.⁷ We join the ABA in commending these lawyers, who have taken financial and professional risks to fight for the rule of law and our constitutional rights. We urge others to join you.

Sincerely,



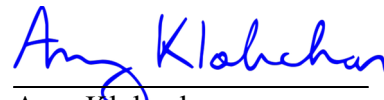
Peter Welch
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

⁵ Compl. at 25-42, *Perkins Coie v. U.S. Dep't of Just.*, No. 1:25-cv-00716 (D.D.C., Mar. 11, 2025); Compl. at 41-63, *Jenner & Block v. U.S. Dep't of Just.*, No. 1:25-cv-00916 (D.D.C., Mar. 28, 2025); Compl. at 32-55, *Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr v. Exec. Off. of the President*, No. 1:25-cv-00917 (D.D.C. Mar. 28, 2025).

⁶ *As Firms Sue to Stop Trump's Executive Orders, a Split Emerges in Big Law*, New York Times (Mar. 28, 2025) (online at <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/28/business/jenner-block-wilmer-hale-trump-lawsuit.html>).

⁷ American Bar Association, *Bar Organizations' Statement in Support of the Rule of Law* (Mar. 26, 2025) (online at <https://www.americanbar.org/news/abanews/aba-news-archives/2025/03/bar-organizations-statement-in-support-of-rule-of-law/>).



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



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