

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 22, 2026

The Honorable Todd Blanche
Acting Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Acting Attorney General Blanche:

I request that you share the materials you referenced during your confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on July 15, 2026, regarding your ethical obligations surrounding your personal representation of President Donald Trump.

You represented President Trump in multiple criminal cases between 2023 and 2024.¹ You also served as counsel to him in various other civil investigations and cases during that period.² A political action committee associated with President Trump—Save America PAC—paid your firm over \$9 million for the legal representation you provided the President in these cases.³

DOJ attorneys are bound by strict conflict of interest requirements to prevent bias and ensure the fair administration of justice.⁴ You confirmed in written questions for the record to me that you did receive an ethics briefing once you were sworn in as Deputy Attorney General.⁵ According to public reporting, Joseph Tirrell—the Department’s then-top ethics official—conducted this briefing.⁶ You were reportedly advised to recuse yourself from legal cases involving President

¹ See George Chidi, *Trump Nominates his Ex-Lawyer Todd Blanche to Serve as Attorney General*, THE GUARDIAN (June 8, 2026), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/jun/08/trump-nominates-todd-blanche-attorney-general>; U.S. Dep’t of Justice, *Staff Profile: Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche*, <https://www.justice.gov/ag/staff-profile/meet-acting-attorney-general-0>.

² See U.S. Dep’t of Justice, *supra* note 1.

³ Federal Election Commission, Save America PAC C00762591, Disbursement Data, available at https://www.fec.gov/data/disbursements/?data_type=processed&committee_id=C00762591&recipient_name=blanche&two_year_transaction_period=2024 (visited July 22, 2026).

⁴ See 28 C.F.R. § 45; U.S. Dep’t of Justice, *Ethics Handbook for On and Off-Duty Conduct*, <https://www.justice.gov/jmd/ethics/ethics-handbook>.

⁵ *Nomination of Todd Blanche to be U.S. Attorney General*, 119th Cong. (2026) (response to QFRs).

⁶ Katelyn Polantz et al., *Exclusive: Acting AG Todd Blanche Was Told Last Year to Recuse from Justice Department Matters Involving Trump*, CNN (May 14, 2026), <https://www.cnn.com/2026/05/14/politics/todd-blanche-recusal-trump-investigations-brennan>.

Trump in his personal capacity.⁷ Mr. Tirrell was subsequently fired on July 11, 2025, after nearly two decades with the Department.⁸

During your confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on July 15, 2026, I asked you about the ethics advice you received from DOJ ethics officials regarding your pre-existing client relationship with President Trump.⁹ I sought confirmation as to whether your ethical obligations are based on advice given to you by Mr. Tirrell, as well as the standard ethics training.¹⁰ You responded in the affirmative.¹¹ You also testified that you follow all of the “very technical rules around the ethics requirements[.]”¹²

The ethics advice you have received is particularly relevant as the Senate considers your nomination for Attorney General given your approval of the settlement between President Trump and the Internal Revenue Service that created the “Anti-Weaponization Fund” and waived all past tax liabilities for the President, his family, and businesses.¹³ It is important to understand whether you were directly advised—as public reporting suggests—to recuse yourself from matters involving the President in his personal capacity prior to approving the creation of this fund and waiving the President’s civil and criminal tax liabilities.

I request that you promptly provide my office with copies of any documents or communications containing advice from DOJ ethics officials detailing your ethical obligations involving President Trump. This includes copies of any materials from the ethics briefing you received upon confirmation and any communications or documents you received prior to the creation of the previously mentioned fund and waiver. As you know, you may waive any attorney-client privileges related to the ethics guidance you received, if the requested documents implicate such a privilege.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ See Memorandum from Pamela Bondi, Attorney General to Joseph W. Tirrell, *Notice of Removal from Federal Service* (July 11, 2025), https://www.linkedin.com/posts/joseph Tirrell_fired-from-doj-without-cause-ugcPost-7350484136387612672-KHqU/; Ben Penn, *Bondi Fires Her Personal Ethics Chief as DOJ Purge Continues*, BLOOMBERG LAW (July 13, 2025), <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/us-law-week/bondi-fires-her-personal-ethics-chief-as-doj-purge-continues>.

⁹ *Nomination of Todd Blanche to be Attorney General: Hearing Before the S. Comm. on the Judiciary*, 119th Cong. 4:30:55 (July 15, 2026) (video available at <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/committee-activity/hearings/the-nomination-of-the-honorable-todd-blanche-to-be-attorney-general-of-the-united-states>).

¹⁰ See *id.* at 4:32:38.

¹¹ See *id.* at 4:32:42.

¹² *Id.* at 4:32:55.

¹³ See Document Establishing the Anti-Weaponization Fund, signed by Acting Att’y Gen. Todd Blanche, U.S. Dep’t of Justice (May 19, 2026), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/media/1441216/dl>; Document Enacting Settlement Agreement, signed by Acting Att’y Gen. Todd Blanche, U.S. Dep’t of Justice (May 18, 2026), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/media/1441086/dl>.

Given the Senate's active consideration of your nomination, please provide these materials no later than July 29, 2026.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Welch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" and last name "Welch" clearly distinguishable.

Peter Welch
United States Senator