

MISCELLANEOUS ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION TO THE FEC (FEC Form 99)

NAME OF COMMITTEE (In Full)

FEC IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

NEIL J. GILLESPIE FOR PRESIDENT

C00627810

Mailing Address 2801 SW COLLEGE RD, STE 3

City State ZIP Code
OCALA FL 34474

As the Candidate, and Treasurer of my committee, NEIL J. GILLESPIE FOR PRESIDENT, Committee Id: C00627810, I hereby file my WRITTEN OBJECTION to the administrative termination my committee pursuant to 52 U.S.C. 30103(d)(2) of the Federal Election Campaign Act, and Commission regulations at 11 CFR 102.4, as described in the letter dated May 27, 2026 from Deborah Chacona, Assistant Staff Director, Federal Election Commission (FEC).

My objection to the administrative termination of my committee is made, in part, in support the Department of Justice (DOJ) Anti-Weaponization Fund. If the FEC had properly acted on my Complaint of Election Fraud in the 2020 Election, the incident at the Capital on January 6, 2021 may have been avoided. Attached you will find the following copies:

- 1. My email Monday, December 14, 2020 3:43 PM, FEC COMPLAINT OF ELECTION FRAUD IN THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
2. A response email Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:29 PM from the FEC.
3. My email Thursday, December 17, 2020 7:40 PM FEC COMPLAINT OF ELECTION FRAUD IN THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION (Mailed).
4. A response letter January 6, 2021 from CELA, the FEC Complaints Examining & Legal Administration. Tellingly the letter is wrongly dated January 6, 2020. However the accompanying email from CELA correctly shows it was sent on Wednesday, January 06, 2021 5:29 PM, from Trace Keys Paralegal, Federal Election Commission Complaints Examination & Legal Administration.

Also see my MISCELLANEOUS REPORT TO FEC filed 01/31/2026 (147 pages) https://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/961/202601319825882961/202601319825882961.pdf#navpanes=0

The letter of Ms. Chacona, addressed to me as "Dear Treasurer", states in part:

"Pursuant to 52 U.S.C. 30103(d)(2) of the Federal Election Campaign Act, and Commission regulations at 11 CFR 102.4, the Commission intends to administratively terminate your committee. As such, your committee is no longer obligated to file reports. However, any receipt or disbursement of funds by the committee for the purpose of influencing a Federal election or supporting a federal candidate will void the administrative termination. In such an event, the committee will be required to begin filing reports with the appropriate office. The first such report will include any activity since the date of the last report filed by the committee. The treasurer of the committee has 30 days from the day of receipt of this notice to object to this administrative termination. If a written objection is not received by the Commission within 30 days, this action will take effect."

On May 4, 2026 I filed a Form 99 for my committee, NEIL J. GILLESPIE FOR PRESIDENT, Committee Id: C00627810, suspended activity while I participate in my campaign for the United States Senate for Florida. On April 24, 2026 I qualified as a No Party Affiliation (NPA) candidate for the United States Senate for Florida in the 2026 general election on November 3, 2026. While I am running for the Senate, I am not actively campaigning for the presidential committee (i.e. raising or spending funds).

I filed the aforementioned Form 99 after email correspondence with my RAD analyst Chris Jones, Reports Analysis Division. RAD analyst Jill Sugarman, Reports Analysis Division, advised that I am not required to terminate my presidential committee. It may remain open with the FEC.

NEIL J. GILLESPIE FOR PRESIDENT, Committee Id: C00627810

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C00627810

Mailing Address 2801 SW COLLEGE RD, STE 3

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OCALA FL 34474

NEIL J GILLESPIE FOR US SENATE, Committee ID: C00943399
NEIL J GILLESPIE, Candidate ID: S6FL00863

The letter dated May 27, 2026 from Deborah Chacona concluded, "If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Jacqueline Gausepohl in the Reports Analysis Division"

On May 28, 2026 at 2:03 PM I telephoned Jacqueline Gausepohl at 202-694-1277 to discuss the intention of Federal Election Commission to terminate my committee. During my eight minute phone call, Ms. Gausepohl said once my committee was terminated, I would no longer be required to file reports. I responded that my campaign had already suspended activity while I campaigned for the senate, and therefore no reports would be due. I also cited my email November 21, 2025 to FEC Chair Shana M. Broussard, et al, my FOIA request of April 24, 2025, and evidence of lawfare against me as a candidate for president in 2020. That lawfare included evidence of negligent homicide of my associate Sarah Thompson by state actors on May 12, 2021.

I also clarified with Ms. Gausepohl that I have not accepted any outside contributions for my presidential campaign, but that I was required to disclose my own in-kind contributions, as a content creator online for my campaign, and as pro se litigant representing my interest as a candidate, in lieu of paid legal fees to a law firm. I would estimate my in-kind contributions would be worth perhaps \$250,000. There is no limit on a candidate's contributions to his own campaign. On May 19, 2022 I was evicted at gunpoint by the Marion County Sheriff's Office on a writ of possession by counsel for the Federal National Mortgage Association, a.k.a. FANNIE MAE on a HECM reverse mortgage. At the time of eviction the home was my campaign office as shown on the deed, Neil J. Gillespie For President.

On May 29, 2026 I telephoned Ms. Gausepohl at 1:59 PM and objected to the termination of my committee, and said I would file a written objection within 30 days.

I plan to intervene in Trump v IRS, USDC, SDFL Case No. 1.26-cv-20609 (Anti-Weaponization Fund) U.S. Judge Kathleen Williams and Magistrate Judge Enjoliqu Lett presiding.

In Dunn v Trump et al, USCD, District of Columbia Case No. 1.26-cv-01719, U.S. Judge Richard Leon presiding, two Capital Policemen, Harry Dunn and Daniel Hodges, sued over the Anti-Weaponization Fund. Officer Dunn and Officer Hodges have a right to know the FEC failed to act on a legitimate Complaint of Election Fraud in the 2020 Presidential Election.

In Andrew Floyd v DOJ, USDC, Eastern Division Virginia, Case No. 1.26-cv-1399, Plaintiffs Andrew Floyd, Jonathan Caravello, City of New Haven, National Abortion Federation, and Common Cause, contend "The Department of Justice and the Department of Treasury have created a \$1.776 billion slush fund from taxpayer dollars to dispense payment to those the Trump-Vance administration favors. Since its inception, this fund has been on a collision course with the United States Constitution." No. My complaint shows a lawyer admitted to practice law is an officer of the court, and a member of the judicial branch of government, and constitutionally prohibited from serving as vice president. That means J.D. Vance, as a lawyer admitted to practice, should be removed from office. U.S. Judge Leonie Brinkema and Magistrate Judge Ivan Davis are presiding.

In two other cases, Perkins Coie LLP v DOJ et al, DC Circuit Court of Appeal No. 25-5241, Trial Judge Beryl Howell; USDC, District of Columbia, Case No. 1:25-cv-00716-BAH, and American Bar Association (ABA) v Trump DOJ et al, DC Circuit Court of Appeal No. 25-5128 Trial Judge Amir H. Ali, USDC-District of Columbia Case No. 1.25-cv-01888, each of those cases argue separation of powers prevents President Trump from jurisdiction over lawyers and law firms. The ABA even cites the same case I rely upon: Ex parte Garland, 71 U.S. 333 (1866).

The enclosed Transcript

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C00627810

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of the CBS News 60 Minutes episode with Scott Pelly, The Rule of Law, May 2, 2025, shows this quote by John Ecker:

"John Ecker: We don't have to agree on politics but we do have to agree that the legal profession has to protect the rule of law in the United States. Which means lawyers and judges need to be independent from the executive branch. [Yes; see Ex parte Garland, 71 U.S. 333 (1866)]"

This means the executive branch and the legislate branch also need to be independent of lawyers and judges. Ex parte Garland held that lawyers are governed by the judicial branch. But law firms are something different. The enclosed Affidavit of Kenneth L. Marvin of The Florida Bar shows the Bar only regulates lawyers, but not law firms. The affidavit is dated October 7, 2010, during the foreclosure crisis when "foreclosure mill" law firms were taking the homes of Americans without due process. The Florida Bar ignored wrongdoing by foreclosure mills on that basis. President Trump (as the executive) therefore has an oversight duty of law firms. Of course, law firms only want other lawyers to regulate them, lawyers admitted to practice like Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. The latter scheme offends the Constitution of the United States.

I affirm that Neil J. Gillespie is my legal name. I have both court documents and drivers license that can attest to this. If there is any question, these documents will be provided for verification.

Neil J. Gillespie, Treasurer
NEIL J. GILLESPIE FOR PRESIDENT, Committee Id: C00627810
NEIL J GILLESPIE, Candidate ID: P60022993

Neil Gillespie

From: "Neil Gillespie" <neilgillespie@mfi.net>
To: <EnfComplaint@fec.gov>; <fec@joebiden.com>; <compliance@kamalaharris.org>; <electoral.college@nara.gov>; <nclsnet-admin@ncsl.org>; <emily.murphy@gsa.gov>; <mary.gibert@gsa.gov>; <presidentialtransition2020@gsa.gov>; <frank.m.talbot@usdoj.gov>; "Voting Section" <voting.section@usdoj.gov>; <CommissionerTrainor@fec.gov>; "Steven Walther" <swalther@fec.gov>; "Ellen Weintraub" <CommissionerWeintraub@fec.gov>; <JIngram@fec.gov>; <MMartin@fec.gov>; "FEC Press" <press@fec.gov>; "ogccela" <ogccela@fec.gov>; <info@fec.gov>; <eFiletechsupport@fec.gov>; <oig@fec.gov>; "Neil Gillespie" <neilgillespie@mfi.net>
Cc: <electoral.college@nara.gov>; <emily.murphy@gsa.gov>; <mary.gibert@gsa.gov>; <presidentialtransition2020@gsa.gov>; <EnfComplaint@fec.gov>; "Voting Section" <voting.section@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 3:43 PM
Attach: FEC COMPLAINT OF ELECTION FRAUD IN THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.pdf; APPENDIX A FLORIDA SUPREME COURT PETITION NO. SC16-2031.pdf; 2020, 12-14-20 SERVICE LIST.pdf
Subject: FEC COMPLAINT OF ELECTION FRAUD IN THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Office of General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
1050 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20463
Email: EnfComplaint@fec.gov

Please find attached:

FEC COMPLAINT OF ELECTION FRAUD IN THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
APPENDIX A FLORIDA SUPREME COURT PETITION NO. SC16-2031

Thank you.

Sincerely,

/s/

NEIL J. GILLESPIE, Complainant
8092 SW 115th Loop
Ocala, Florida 34481
Tel. 352-854-7807
Email: neilgillespie@mfi.net

Neil Gillespie

From: <no-reply@fec.gov>
To: <neilgillespie@mfi.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:29 PM
Subject: RE: FEC COMPLAINT OF ELECTION FRAUD IN THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Thank you for your email.

If you believe a violation of the federal election campaign laws or Commission regulations has occurred or is about to occur, you may file a complaint. The complaint must be made in writing and sent to the Office of General Counsel, Federal Election Commission, 1050 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20463. The original must be submitted along with three copies, if possible. Facsimile or e-mail transmissions are not acceptable.

Please note that complaints received by mail on or after June 18, 2020, will not be processed on a daily basis until the FEC resumes normal mail operations. The FEC is not able to receive complaints delivered by courier at this time. During this time, the Commission asks that anyone filing a new enforcement complaint by mail also send an electronic copy of the complaint to EnfComplaint@fec.gov. The Commission encourages the use of electronic signatures and notarizations where permitted by state law. Electronically submitted copies of complaints that otherwise appear to be in order will be deemed received on the date the copy was electronically received by staff. Complaints that are filed only by mail will be deemed received when actually received by OGC staff, subject to mail processing delays.

A complaint must comply with certain requirements. It must:

- Provide the full name and address of the person filing the complaint (called the complainant); and
- Be signed, sworn to and notarized. This means that the notary public's certificate must say "...signed and sworn to before me...", or words that connote the complaint was affirmed by the complainant, (such as "under penalty of perjury").

Furthermore, in order for a complaint to be considered complete and proper, it should:

- Clearly recite the facts that show specific violations under the Commission's jurisdiction (citations to the law and regulations are not necessary);
- Clearly identify each person, committee or group that is alleged to have committed a violation (called the respondent);
- Include any documentation supporting the allegations, if available; and
- Differentiate between statements based on the complainant's (the person who files the complaint) personal knowledge and those based on information and belief. Statements not based on personal knowledge should identify the source of the information.

For additional information, please visit our website on [how to file a complaint](#).

We hope this information is helpful. If you have any additional questions about federal campaign finance law, please contact us at 1-800-424-9530 (press #6 when prompted).

Information Division

Federal Election Commission

Please note that the guidance provided by this correspondence is strictly informational and is NOT legally binding. Only the Commission, via the Advisory Opinion process, has the authority to issue a legally binding opinion. This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this email.

===== ORIGINAL MESSAGE =====

From: neilgillespie@mfi.net

Sent: 2020-12-14 19:44:51

Subject: FEC COMPLAINT OF ELECTION FRAUD IN THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Office of General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
1050 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20463
Email: EnfComplaint@fec.gov

Please find attached:

FEC COMPLAINT OF ELECTION FRAUD IN THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
APPENDIX A FLORIDA SUPREME COURT PETITION NO. SC16-2031

Thank you.

Sincerely,

/s/

NEIL J. GILLESPIE, Complainant

8092 SW 115th Loop

Ocala, Florida 34481

Tel. 352-854-7807

Email: neilgillespie@mfi.net

Ref:MSG0147009

Neil Gillespie

From: "Neil Gillespie" <neilgillespie@mfi.net>
To: <EnfComplaint@fec.gov>; <fec@joebiden.com>; <compliance@kamalaharris.org>; <electoral.college@nara.gov>; <nclsnet-admin@ncsl.org>; <emily.murphy@gsa.gov>; <mary.gibert@gsa.gov>; <presidentialtransition2020@gsa.gov>; <frank.m.talbot@usdoj.gov>; "Voting Section" <voting.section@usdoj.gov>; <CommissionerTrainor@fec.gov>; "Steven Walther" <swalther@fec.gov>; "Ellen Weintraub" <CommissionerWeintraub@fec.gov>; <JIngram@fec.gov>; <MMartin@fec.gov>; "FEC Press" <press@fec.gov>; "ogccela" <ogccela@fec.gov>; <info@fec.gov>; <eFiletechsupport@fec.gov>; <oig@fec.gov>; "Neil Gillespie" <neilgillespie@mfi.net>
Cc: <electoral.college@nara.gov>; <emily.murphy@gsa.gov>; <mary.gibert@gsa.gov>; <presidentialtransition2020@gsa.gov>; <EnfComplaint@fec.gov>; "Voting Section" <voting.section@usdoj.gov>; "Doyle, Joshua" <jdoyle@floridabar.org>; "Courtemanche, Richard" <RCourtemanche@floridabar.org>; "Brittany Quinlan" <Brittany.Quinlan@myfloridalegal.com>; "John Anthony Tomasino" <tomasino@flcourts.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2020 7:40 PM
Attach: FEC COMPLAINT OF ELECTION FRAUD IN THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION (Mailed).pdf
Subject: Fw: FEC COMPLAINT OF ELECTION FRAUD IN THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

VIA U.S. PRIORITY MAIL 2-DAY
USPS TRACKING # 9405 5036 9930 0195 6116 15

December 17, 2020

Office of General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
1050 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20463
Email: EnfComplaint@fec.gov

To the Office of General Counsel:

Please find enclosed:

1. Your email dated December 15, 2020 requesting the original along with three copies.
2. FEC COMPLAINT OF ELECTION FRAUD IN THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
3. APPENDIX A FLORIDA SUPREME COURT PETITION NO. SC16-2031

Thank you.

Sincerely,
/s/
NEIL J. GILLESPIE, Complainant
8092 SW 115th Loop
Ocala, Florida 34481
Tel. 352-854-7807
Email: neilgillespie@mfi.net

Enclosures

Cc: President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

----- Original Message -----

From: no-reply@fec.gov

To: neilgillespie@mfi.net

Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:29 PM

Subject: RE: FEC COMPLAINT OF ELECTION FRAUD IN THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

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Federal Election Commission

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Sent: 2020-12-14 19:44:51
Subject: FEC COMPLAINT OF ELECTION FRAUD IN THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Office of General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
1050 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20463
Email: EnfComplaint@fec.gov

Please find attached:

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APPENDIX A FLORIDA SUPREME COURT PETITION NO. SC16-2031
Thank you.

Sincerely,
/s/
NEIL J. GILLESPIE, Complainant
8092 SW 115th Loop
Ocala, Florida 34481
Tel. 352-854-7807
Email: neilgillespie@mfi.net

Ref:MSG0147009



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

VIA EMAIL

neilgillespie@mfi.net
Neil Gillespie
8092 SW 115th Loop
Ocala, Florida 34481

January 6, 2020

Dear Mr. Gillespie:

This acknowledges receipt of your letters to the Federal Election Commission on December 14th and December 17th, 2020.

The Federal Election Commission (the "Commission") is an independent regulatory agency charged with administering and enforcing the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, and Chapters 95 and 96 of Title 26, United States Code. The Commission has jurisdiction over the financing of campaigns for federal office -- the U.S. House, Senate, and President.

After careful review of your correspondence, we have determined that your letter does not state any acts that appear to constitute a violation under our jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

Jeff S. Jordan (*by TDK*)
Assistant General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
Office of General Counsel
Complaints Examination and Legal Administration

Neil Gillespie

From: "CELA" <CELA@fec.gov>
To: <neilgillespie@mfi.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 06, 2021 5:29 PM
Attach: Gillespie Complaint Response.pdf
Subject: COMPLAINT OF ELECTION FRAUD IN THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION Response

Please see attached for a response to complaints submitted on December 14th and 17th 2020.

Trace Keys

Paralegal

Federal Election Commission

Complaints Examination &

Legal Administration

(202) 694-1260

cela@fec.gov



<https://www.cbsnews.com/video/the-rule-of-law-sunday-on-60-minutes/>

**CBS News 60 Minutes episode, The Rule of Law, May 2, 2025
Scott Pelly reporting**



Scott Pelly

President Trump

Brenna Frey



Marc Elias

Donald Ayer

John Keker

Transcript by Transcription Puppy

60 Minutes YouTube Channel

How law firms targeted by Trump are responding to White House pressure

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1QSDSnX8Rw>

Scott Pelley: It was nearly impossible to get anyone on camera for this story because of the fear now running through our system of justice. In recent weeks, President Trump has signed orders against several law firms. Orders with the power to destroy them. That matters because lawsuits have been a check on the president's power. Many firms and attorneys have been targeted. Among them, Mark Elias, a longtime opponent of Trump, who is the only lawyer the president has named, who was willing to appear on 60 Minutes. Elias and others are warning that Trump's assault on the legal profession threatens the rule of law itself. Elias says that for him, it began with the President's personal grudge.

Automated voice: The story will continue in a moment.

Transcript: CBS News 60 Minutes episode, The Rule of Law, May 2, 2025

Mark Elias: Donald Trump hates me because I fight hard, and I fight for free and fair elections. I insist on fighting for democracy in court, fighting for voting rights in court, and insist on telling the truth about what the outcome of the 2020 election was.

Scott Pelley: Are there risks in doing the work that you're doing?

Marc Elias: I'd be an idiot not to be worried. The question though is what do you do? Right? Do you just cower in the corner? Do you just try to disappear? Do you just leave democracy to fend for itself? Or do you stand tall and do the best you can every day to represent your clients and try to preserve the rule of law?

Scott Pelley: Mark Elias first crossed Trump in 2016. He was the top lawyer for the Clinton campaign. Then in 2020 when Trump and Allies challenged the election results, Elias fought in court and won.

Marc Elias: The walking...

Scott Pelley: Trump calls him a thug.

Marc Elias: Donald Trump is the walking embodiment of everything that is wrong with the American political system. And so when Donald Trump says that I am unethical or that I am undermining his vision of America, I say, boy, I must be doing something right.

Scott Pelley: Elias was top of mind for Trump this past March. Both he and another lawyer who had once investigated the president.

President Trump: With the help of radicals like Mark Elias, Mark Pomerance, and these are people that nobody's ever seen anything like it. So many others. But these are people that are bad people. Really bad people. They tried to turn America into a corrupt, communist, and third world country. But in the end the thugs failed and the truth won.

Scott Pelley: Beginning in February, the president signed the orders attacking the law firms.

President Trump: Wait, I just wanna savor this one, please.

Scott Pelley: Six firms in six weeks. Including Mark Elias's former firm. Each had a connection to an investigation or legal case related to Trump or his allies, including Robert Mueller's 2017 probe of Russian election meddling, subversion of the 2020 election and alleged mishandling of classified documents.

President Trump: This is an absolute honor to say what they've done is. And it just terrible.[crosstalk]

Scott Pelley: Targeted firms say what the president signed amounted to a corporate death penalty.

President Trump: And it should never be allowed to happen again.

Transcript: CBS News 60 Minutes episode, The Rule of Law, May 2, 2025

Scott Pelley: The orders threaten to bar attorneys from where they work, courthouses and federal agencies. And cancel the contracts of law firm clients. For example, an aerospace company could lose its federal contracts if it stayed with the firm. A senior partner at one firm told us the president's orders were "diabolical", intended to bankrupt us. He said within hours his major clients were threatening to drop his firm. It took only a matter of days before America's wealthiest and most powerful law firms buckled. In a shock to the legal community, nine major firms went to the White House to make a deal. Some say they were pressured not by a written order but by a message from the White House threatening an order.

Marc Elias: He is trying to intimidate them. The way in which a mob boss intimidates people in the neighborhood. That he is seeking to either exact protection money from or engage in other nefarious conduct. I mean, the fact is that these law firms are being told, if you don't play ball with us, maybe something really bad will happen to you.

Scott Pelley: The nine firms did not admit wrongdoing but altogether they agreed to give nearly \$1 billion in legal services to causes that the firms and Trump support.

Donald Ayer: Our whole system of government is at stake.

Scott Pelley: Attorney Donald Ayer should know he argued before the Supreme Court for the Reagan administration. He was Deputy Attorney General for George HW Bush.

Donald Ayer: And that's their argument. And what anybody...

Scott Pelley: Today he teaches at Georgetown Law.

Donald Ayer: The idea that the president would issue executive orders aimed at any either specific person or organization, and stating that they're being punished because they're doing things that are politically disapproved by the people in power. That- that is completely unprecedented.

Scott Pelley: Nobody has that right, including the president.

Donald Ayer: No, absolutely not. I think the president... President's an elected person and he has the right to do a great many things. But he doesn't have the right to essentially cancel out your right to have a lawyer of your choosing represent you in court by scaring the lawyer through threats that their personal livelihood will be destroyed.

Scott Pelley: Now, America's legal community is torn between those who want to fight and those who made a deal. One firm that reached an agreement with Trump was Skadden Arps.

Brenna Frey: System...

Scott Pelley: Where Attorney Brenna Frey resigned in protest.

Transcript: CBS News 60 Minutes episode, The Rule of Law, May 2, 2025

Brenna Frey: I think the message it sends to the country is power is what matters. If you have power, you can exercise that power however you want. And if that's true, why have a legal system at all? Why have law firms or lawyers at all?

Scott Pelley: You thought that Skadden would fight?

Brenna Frey: Absolutely.

Scott Pelley: Why did you think so?

Brenna Frey: Because that's a foundational principle of the firm. That we are zealous advocates for the law.

Scott Pelley: Why did this mean so much to you that you felt you had to quit?

Brenna Frey: The law firm is tacitly saying, we'll, listen to the administration. We won't fight in court. If we won't fight over this what else won't we fight over in court against the federal government?

Scott Pelley: In a note to its staff, Skadden Arps called its deal with Trump extraordinarily difficult but the best path to protect our clients, our people, and our firm.

Brenna Frey: I think that they're naive if they think this makes the issue go away.

Scott Pelley: Naive. What do you mean?

Brenna Frey: There was nothing in these agreements that prevents the president from issuing another executive order against the law firm in the future.

Donald Ayer: Someone must stand up to this because it is a direct attack on the whole functioning of our judicial system.

Scott Pelley: Four firms are standing up and fighting in court. Judges protected them with temporary restraining orders. Law Professor Donald Ayer says in his view, Trump's orders violate the constitutional rights to free speech, due process, and the right to counsel.

Donald Ayer: Everyone's got a right to a lawyer, everyone's got a right to go to court, and it's something we've always assumed to be true and now it's threatened.

Scott Pelley: So if the president targets a few specific law firms, the message to law firms across the country, in a nutshell, is what?

Donald Ayer: I think the message is, that this can happen to you. But it's a real effort to prevent zealous representation of your client's legal interest when that results in something unacceptable to the administration.

John Ecker: You're at the mercy of the government and it, it really, it's like a protection racket.

Transcript: CBS News 60 Minutes episode, The Rule of Law, May 2, 2025

Scott Pelley: John Ecker is a prominent attorney and Democrat in San Francisco. You're not suggesting that the president's running a protection racket?

John Ecker: I am. I'm, I'm, I'm suggesting that he is, uh, violating the rule that says you can't offer a thing of value in return for an official act. That happens to be the definition of bribery. Anybody else who came to Washington and said, I will give you a hundred million dollars of free legal services if you do this for me, would be convicted of a bribe.

Scott Pelley: Ecker is helping recruit law firms nationwide to fight back. More than 500 firms, large and small have signed up in support.

John Ecker: We don't have to agree on politics but we do have to agree that the legal profession has to protect the rule of law in the United States. **Which means lawyers and judges need to be independent from the executive branch.** [Yes; see *Ex parte Garland*, 71 U.S. 333 (1866)]

Scott Pelley: If the president brings the legal profession to heel, what situation is the country in then?

John Ecker: No rule of law. You're in a dictatorship. That's what happened in China, it happens in Russia, these are legal systems that look like legal systems, but in fact are controlled by a dictatorship.

President Trump: I just think that, uh, the law firms have to behave themselves.

Scott Pelley: Trump's attack on the law firms has been described by a federal judge as a personal vendetta. None of his targets is charged with any crime. Trump, however, was indicted by federal grand juries in cases about the 2020 election and allegedly concealing classified documents. He pleaded not guilty. Those prosecutions were dropped only because he was reelected. Last year, a state jury convicted him of falsifying business records, making him the first felon in the Oval Office.

President Trump: I've been targeted for four years longer than that. So you don't tell me about targeting. I was the target of, uh, corrupt politicians for four years and then four years after that, uh... So don't talk to me about targeting.

Scott Pelley: In Trump's defense government lawyers argue in court that his orders against the firms ensure that tax money is not supporting unlawful or unsavory practices. Another filing says the executive branch is merely managing who it does business with, not punishing anyone. And the government argues that the orders are "well within the scope of presidential prerogative."

President Trump: Well, the law firms all wanna make deals. You mean the law firms that we're going after that went after me for four years, ruthlessly, violently, illegally. You mean the... Are those are law firms you're talking about? They're not babies. They're very sophisticated people. Uh, those law firms did bad things. Bad things. They went after me for years. Uh, Russia, Russia, Russia hoax, all a hoax.

Transcript: CBS News 60 Minutes episode, The Rule of Law, May 2, 2025

Scott Pelley: What Trump means by a hoax were allegations in 2016 of shady dealings with Russia by Trump and his campaign. He's right that the FBI could not corroborate what was described as rumor. At least one allegation was promoted to the media by Clinton campaign representatives when Mark Elias was general counsel. In this memo, six weeks ago, Trump says Elias is an example of grossly unethical misconduct. The President directs the Attorney General to seek sanctions against any lawyer anywhere for unreasonable and vexatious litigation against the government. Unreasonable apparently, in the eye of the president.

Scott Pelley: Are we reaching a point where a person will go to a law firm with a case that is opposed to the president of the United States, and the law firm will think, do we really want to take this case?

Marc Elias: We're already there. They are deciding not to take on certain kinds of clients that might upset the administration. Or not bring- taking on certain kinds of causes that might put them in the crosshairs of the administration.

Scott Pelley: If lawyers give up their independence, what is lost?

Marc Elias: The rule of law. And this is why the business community ought to care. Today it might be that, you know, Donald Trump thinks he can take over the election system through one of his executive orders. Tomorrow, maybe it's the banking system. After that, maybe it's contracts, maybe he decrees, I'm gonna decide which contracts are binding, and which contracts aren't binding. So the legal system is fundamental to how our society operates, how capitalism operates, and everyone should have a stake in that.

Scott Pelley: Conservative law Professor Donald Ayer is optimistic the courts will strike down the president's orders. The question then he told us, is whether Trump will obey.

Donald Ayer: This is a very big deal. What's happening now is a very big deal. It's a whole nother chapter in our history and we need to call upon the values that have brought us to where we are, um, in order to get through it.

Scott Pelley: In a late development Friday evening a federal judge permanently blocked President Trump's order against one of the law firms. Saying that the order is unconstitutional. No word yet on whether the administration will appeal.
[END]

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AFFIDAVIT OF KENNETH L. MARVIN

BEFORE ME, this day personally appeared KENNETH L. MARVIN, who upon oath deposes upon personal knowledge and states:


1. I am over the age of eighteen and am competent to testify as to the facts and matters set forth herein;
2. I make this affidavit upon personal knowledge of the matters set forth herein;
3. I am presently employed as the Director of Lawyer Regulation for the Florida Bar;
4. I am familiar with the provision of the Florida Constitution, Article V, Section 15, which provides,

Attorneys; admission and discipline.---The supreme court shall have exclusive jurisdiction to regulate the admission of persons to the practice of law and the discipline of persons admitted.

5. The Florida Bar has no control over attorney admissions to the Florida Bar, which is handled by the Florida Board of Bar Examiners, a Florida Supreme Court agency. Admission to The Florida Bar is only finally accomplished by action of the Florida Supreme Court.
6. The Florida Bar also conducts inquiries into whether members have failed to meet the minimum standards of conduct set forth in the Rules of Professional Conduct, adopted by the Florida Supreme Court.
7. Florida Bar inquiries regarding issues of alleged misconduct of Florida attorneys are conducted only as to individual attorneys, not as to law firms or other business entities composed of attorneys.

8. The Florida Bar does not regulate, conduct inquiries into, or have any authority over law firms, corporations, professional service corporations, limited liability companies or other business entities composed of attorneys.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT,

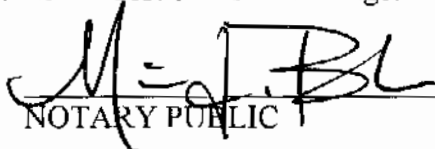


Kenneth L. Marvin, Florida Bar
Director of Lawyer Regulation

STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF LEON)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me, this 7th day of October, 2010, by Kenneth L. Marvin, who is personally known to me or who has produced _____ as identification and states that he is the person who made this affidavit and that its contents are truthful to the best of his knowledge.

(SEAL)



NOTARY PUBLIC
Monica A. Burkes
Print Name of Notary Public

My Commission Expires: November 6, 2013

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