

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

April 18, 2025

**VIA EMAIL**

Mr. Jon A. Ballis  
Chairman  
Kirkland & Ellis LLP  
333 W Wolf Point Plaza  
Chicago, IL 60654

Dear Mr. Ballis:

We write today regarding President Trump’s April 11, 2025, announcement that Kirkland & Ellis LLP (“Kirkland & Ellis”) reached an agreement with President Trump in order to avoid executive orders targeted at your firm and resolve federal discrimination probes against your firm. Your capitulation puts you in the distasteful company of several other large law firms who have decided to permit President Trump to suppress their speech and dictate who they can and cannot take as clients in blatant violation of the rights guaranteed to all Americans by the First, Fifth, and Sixth Amendments of the United States Constitution. As we did on April 6<sup>1</sup>, we, the Ranking Members of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations and House Judiciary Committee, write to you anew to seek updated information and records about this troubling agreement.

On April 11, 2025, the White House issued a statement that President Trump had entered into an agreement with your firm and that your firm has “affirmed [its] strong commitment to ending the Weaponization of the Justice System and the Legal Profession.”<sup>2</sup> As part of this agreement your firm has committed at least \$125 million in *pro bono* legal services for causes President Trump advocates for and acceded to the President’s demands that you disengage from diversity, equity, and inclusion hiring practices.<sup>3</sup> As a result, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission will withdrawal its probe issued to your firm on March 17, 2025, and will not pursue any claims against you.<sup>4</sup>

Your agreement makes you complicit in efforts to undermine the rule of law and to turn private attorneys into President Trump’s personal law firm, ready to do whatever he decides. This is not a hypothetical concern. Just last week President Trump said that he would ask law firms who have entered into agreements with the White House to help with pending trade

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from Richard Blumenthal, Ranking Member, S. Permanent Subcomm. on Investigations, and Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Kirkland & Ellis LLP (Apr. 6, 2025), <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025-4-6-Blumenthal-Raskin-Letter-to-Kirkland-Ellis.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Chris Opfer, *Five Major Law Firms Cut \$600 Million Deals with Trump (3)*, Bloomberg Law, (Apr. 11, 2025), available at: <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/business-and-practice/five-major-law-firms-cut-600-million-deals-with-trump-1>.

<sup>3</sup> See Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), Truth Social (Apr. 11, 2025 12:21 P.M.).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

negotiations and to work with coal companies on leasing and other matters.<sup>5</sup> Now, Kirkland & Ellis is among those whom the President has successfully and unlawfully coerced into spending \$125 million in law firm resources to support his pet issues, making statements that support his agenda, and reversing firm policies he disagrees with. If every law firm targeted by the President were to accede to his unlawful demands, the resulting threat to Americans' constitutional protections would erode our democratic values and cherished civil liberties, as well as cost the legal profession dearly and for many years to come.<sup>6</sup>

The American people and Congress deserve transparency with respect to the President's ongoing assault on constitutional rights and the rule of law. Accordingly, please provide the following information to the House Judiciary Committee and the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations by April 28, 2025:

1. Please describe in detail the circumstances surrounding your April 11, 2025, agreement with President Trump.
  - a. Who facilitated your April 11, 2025, agreement with President Trump?
  - b. Did Kirkland & Ellis representatives meet with President Trump or members of his administration?
    - i. *If so*, describe in detail who participated in the meeting(s), when and where they took place, and what was discussed.
  - c. Did you acknowledge any wrongdoing for representing causes President Trump finds objectionable?
  - d. To what extent did you or other Kirkland & Ellis attorneys seek or receive any ethical guidance surrounding the prospect of concluding a deal with President Trump, including from any state, federal, or other bar association?
2. What were the specific terms of the deal Kirkland & Ellis agreed to with President Trump?
  - a. Does President Trump's April 11, 2025, social media statement accurately reflect the terms of your deal?<sup>7</sup>
  - b. Please detail all client relationships Kirkland & Ellis has chosen to end from April 11, 2025, to the present.
3. Please explain your firm's interaction with any other law firms as you considered whether and how to reach an agreement with President Trump.
  - a. Did any law firms offer to support you in a challenge to any possible executive order by President Trump targeting Kirkland & Ellis?

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<sup>5</sup> See Roy Strom, *Trump Says He'll Enlist Big Law Dealmakers for Coal, Tariffs*, Bloomberg Law, (Apr. 8, 2025), available at: <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/business-and-practice/trump-says-hell-enlist-big-law-dealmakers-for-coal-tariffs>.

<sup>6</sup> See Am. Bar Ass'n, Model Rules of Pro. Conduct, Preamble ("a lawyer should further the public's understanding of and confidence in the rule of law and the justice system because legal institutions in a constitutional democracy depend on popular participation and support to maintain their authority.").

<sup>7</sup> See Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), Truth Social (Apr. 11, 2025 12:21 P.M.)

- b. Please detail which firms and what they offered to do in support.
- c. Did any law firms explicitly decline to support you? Please detail which firms and the nature of their decision to not offer support.

In addition, please provide the House Judiciary Committee and the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations with the following records<sup>8</sup> by April 28, 2025, and any subsequently produced records responsive to these requests on a bi-weekly basis thereafter:

1. All records referring or relating to any executive order threatened by President Trump against Kirkland & Ellis and efforts by Kirkland & Ellis to negotiate an agreement with President Trump, including but not limited to:
  - a. Any communications regarding any threatened executive order or any proposed agreement;
  - b. Any communications with any officials in the Trump Administration from March 1, 2025, to the present regarding any threatened executive order and any proposed agreement; and
  - c. Draft records constituting or related to any proposed agreement between President Trump and Kirkland & Ellis.
2. A detailed description of all requests for pro bono services you have received from the White House or any executive branch agency since entering into an agreement with the White House, including the nature of such request, the identity of the individual requesting the services, and the services your firm has agreed to provide.
3. All correspondence with the White House or any executive branch agency regarding the use of any pro bono services by your firm for trade negotiations, coal leases, or any other services provided to or on behalf of the federal government.

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<sup>8</sup> For purposes of this request, “records” include any written, recorded, or graphic material of any kind, including letters, memoranda, reports, notes, electronic data (emails, email attachments, and any other electronically-created or stored information), direct messages, chats, calendar entries, inter-office communications, meeting minutes, phone/voice mail or recordings/records of verbal communications, and drafts (whether or not they resulted in final documents).

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Please contact the House Judiciary Committee and the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations should you have any questions about responding to these requests. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal  
Ranking Member  
Senate Permanent Subcommittee on  
Investigations



Jamie Raskin  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on the Judiciary

cc: The Honorable Ron Johnson  
Chairman  
Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

The Honorable Jim Jordan  
Chairman  
House Committee on the Judiciary