

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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July 31, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
United States Senate SD-511
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Thune and Minority Leader Schumer:

I write with grave concern about President Trump's nomination of Jeanine Pirro to lead the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia.¹ Over the past decade, Ms. Pirro has consistently demonstrated that her loyalty lies with Donald Trump the person, not with the Constitution or the rule of law. Her blind loyalty to Donald Trump at the exclusion of other principles, her embarrassing support of the "big lie" that the 2020 election was rigged in the face of all evidence to the contrary and 60 federal and state court decisions rejecting such claims, her unswerving defense of convicted January 6th rioters, and her incendiary rhetoric that urges President Trump to seek retribution against his alleged enemies all make it clear that she lacks the intellectual honesty, personal principles, temperament, integrity, and fundamental constitutional fidelity required to lead this important office.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia—the largest U.S. Attorney Office in the Department of Justice (DOJ)—plays a critical role in upholding the rule of law and keeping the 700,000 residents of the District safe. Given its position in our nation's capital, the office is charged with not only prosecuting ordinary crimes in D.C., but of investigating and prosecuting matters involving Members of Congress and the Executive Branch, prosecuting those charged with crimes such as lying to Congress in violation of 18 U.S.C. §1001, and those who have been held in contempt of Congress.² Accordingly, it is particularly important for the leader of this office to be scrupulously nonpartisan and to be committed to upholding the Constitution and the rule of law through thick and thin.

But Ms. Pirro has made clear that her personal loyalty to Donald Trump overrides whatever commitment she has to the Constitution, the rule of law, the truth, and the facts. During President Trump's first term, Ms. Pirro had urged President Trump to pursue his political

¹ Samantha Waldenberg, *Trump nominates Jeanine Pirro for full term as DC's top federal prosecutor*, CNN (June 17, 2025), <https://edition.cnn.com/2025/06/17/politics/jeanine-pirro-us-attorney-nomination>.

² Office of the United States Attorney, *About Us*, JUSTICE.GOV <https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/criminal-division> (last updated July 29, 2024)

opponents, including Hillary Clinton, as she vied to become the Deputy Attorney General.³ During a November 2017 meeting in the Oval Office, Ms. Pirro told President Trump that the Justice Department should appoint a special counsel to investigate a debunked conspiracy theory involving Hillary Clinton and the sale of a large uranium firm to Russian interests in exchange for donations to the Clinton Foundation.⁴ Shortly after the meeting, the DOJ informed lawmakers that it was examining whether to appoint a special counsel to investigate these allegations.⁵ That investigation yielded nothing and quietly ended after two years.⁶

Ms. Pirro also denounced various DOJ leaders for not moving quickly enough “to quash probes” of President Trump and to investigate President Trump’s perceived political opponents, including then-Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Christopher Wray.⁷ In December 2017, Ms. Pirro called for a “cleansing” of the FBI and the Justice Department, which she said were full “of individuals who should not just be fired, but who need to be taken out in handcuffs.”⁸

Ed Martin’s nomination to the same post Ms. Pirro is now under consideration for was abandoned in part because of bipartisan outrage over his promotion of conspiracy theories about the 2020 election and support for January 6th. Like Mr. Martin, Ms. Pirro has also championed President Trump’s “big lie” and defended January 6th rioters. After the 2020 election, Ms. Pirro promoted President Trump’s stolen-election conspiracy theories on air vigorously and frequently.⁹ Her claims were so outlandish that a Fox News producer warned that she should be kept off the air for exposing Fox to litigation by broadcasting baseless conspiracy theories on her show.¹⁰ She claimed falsely, for example, that “the Dominion Software System has been tagged as one allegedly capable of flipping votes.”¹¹ She also promoted Trump campaign lawyer Sidney Powell’s baseless “findings” on air, claims for which Ms. Powell was later sanctioned by a

³ John Bowden -, *Fox News host tore into Sessions in private meeting with Trump: report*, THE HILL (Nov. 14, 2017), <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/360239-fox-news-host-tore-into-sessions-in-private-meeting-with-trump-report/>; Andrew Beaujon, *Jeanine Pirro: 5 Things to Know About the Fox News Host Trump Picked to Be DC’s Top Prosecutor*, WASHINGTONIAN (May 9, 2025), <https://www.washingtonian.com/2025/05/09/jeanine-pirro-5-things-to-know-us-attorney-dc/>.

⁴ Andrew Beaujon, *Jeanine Pirro: 5 Things to Know About the Fox News Host Trump Picked to Be DC’s Top Prosecutor*, WASHINGTONIAN (May 9, 2025), <https://www.washingtonian.com/2025/05/09/jeanine-pirro-5-things-to-know-us-attorney-dc/>.

⁵ Adam Klasfeld & Ryan Goodman, *Chronology of a Dozen Times Trump Pushed to Prosecute His Perceived Enemies*, JUST SECURITY (Sept. 3, 2024), <https://www.justsecurity.org/98703/chronology-trump-justice-department/>
⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Matt Gertz, *Trump’s Fox News problem is setting Jeanine Pirro up for failure*, MSNBC (May 9, 2025), <https://www.msnbc.com/opinion/msnbc-opinion/jeanine-pirro-trump-dc-attorney-fox-news-rcna205800>

⁸ Matt Gertz, *Fox is telling Trump to fire the FBI director for not helping his reelection campaign*, MEDIA MATTERS (Oct. 10, 2020), <https://www.mediamatters.org/fox-news/fox-telling-trump-fire-fbi-director-not-helping-his-reelection-campaign>; N.Y. Times Ed. Board, *Fox News v. Robert Mueller*, N.Y. TIMES (Dec. 12, 2017), <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/12/opinion/fox-news-robert-mueller.html>.

⁹ David Folkenflik, *Fox producer’s warning against Jeanine Pirro surfaces in Dominion defamation suit*, NPR (Sept. 6, 2022), <https://www.npr.org/2022/09/06/1121187542/dominion-voting-fox-news-lawsuit-pirro>.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*

Michigan federal judge.¹² Because of her conduct, Ms. Pirro was named in 2021 as a defendant in multibillion-dollar defamation lawsuits brought by the voting-machine manufacturers Dominion Voting Systems and Smartmatic.¹³ The Dominion lawsuit was later settled by Fox News for more than \$787 million,¹⁴ a remarkable and unprecedented sum for a media defamation case in American courts, while the Smartmatic suit remains ongoing.¹⁵

Ms. Pirro has also demonstrated a dangerously ideological approach to the crimes committed by more than 1,500 convicted January 6th criminals pardoned by President Trump. She called these convicts, hundreds of whom violently assaulted and wounded our police officers, “hostages” and falsely claimed they were prosecuted by the DOJ “based upon their political beliefs,” something never once agreed to in court. She dismissed the sickening violence at the U.S. Capitol as a Biden Administration “narrative,” and demanded investigations into the DOJ and U.S. Capitol Police.¹⁶ Ms. Pirro also criticized a Trump-appointed judge’s decision to sentence Henry “Enrique” Tarrio, the leader of the Proud Boys, to 22 years in prison, arguing that he “didn’t even show up to the place,” despite overwhelming evidence supporting the District Judge’s finding that Mr. Tarrio was the “ultimate leader” of the conspiracy to stop the certification process.¹⁷ Ms. Pirro’s indiscriminate loyalty to Trump was rewarded in 2021 when he pardoned her ex-husband Albert Pirro, who had been convicted of criminal tax evasion and conspiracy in 2000, during the last days of his first term.¹⁸

Since assuming office as the Interim United States Attorney, Ms. Pirro has helped President Trump retaliate against DOJ attorneys and staff who worked on cases related to January 6th. Ms. Pirro has endorsed calls to criminally investigate the prosecutors who brought the January 6th defendants to justice, many of whom worked in the D.C. U. S. Attorney’s Office, which she now runs.¹⁹ Since Ms. Pirro took office, January 6th prosecutors, including career

¹² *Id.*

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ David Bauder, Randall Chase & Geoff Mulvihill, *Fox, Dominion reach \$787M settlement over election claims*, ASSOC. PRESS (Apr. 18, 2023), <https://apnews.com/article/fox-news-dominion-lawsuit-trial-trump-2020-0ac71f75acfac52ea80b3e747fb0afe>.

¹⁵ Jeremy Barr, *Smartmatic says evidence shows Fox execs didn’t believe election claims*, WASH. POST (May 16, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/style/media/2025/05/16/smartmatic-fox-lawsuit-filings/>.

¹⁶ Tom Joscelyn & Norman Eisen, *Pirro Fails Tillis Test*, Democracy Defender Action <https://www.democracydefendersaction.org/press-release/071825> (last visited July 31, 2025), Samantha Waldenberg, *Trump nominates Jeanine Pirro for full term as DC’s top federal prosecutor*, CNN (June 17, 2025), <https://edition.cnn.com/2025/06/17/politics/jeanine-pirro-us-attorney-nomination>; Thomas Joscelyn & Norman Eisen, *Unfit to Serve: Jeanine Pirro Made Excuses for Jan. 6th*, THE BULWARK (July 14, 2025), <https://www.thebulwark.com/p/unfit-to-serve-jeanine-pirro-made-excuses-for-january-6th-hostagers-prosecutors-attorney-confirmation-tillis>.

¹⁷ Thomas Joscelyn & Norman Eisen, *Unfit to Serve: Jeanine Pirro Made Excuses for Jan. 6th*, THE BULWARK (July 14, 2025), <https://www.thebulwark.com/p/unfit-to-serve-jeanine-pirro-made-excuses-for-january-6th-hostagers-prosecutors-attorney-confirmation-tillis>.

¹⁸ Benjamin Din, *Trump issues last-minute pardon to Albert Pirro, ex-husband of Jeanine Pirro*, POLITICO (Jan. 20, 2021), <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/01/20/trump-last-minute-pardon-albert-pirro-460764>.

¹⁹ Thomas Joscelyn & Norman Eisen, *Unfit to Serve: Jeanine Pirro Made Excuses for Jan. 6th*, THE BULWARK (July 14, 2025), <https://www.thebulwark.com/p/unfit-to-serve-jeanine-pirro-made-excuses-for-january-6th-hostagers-prosecutors-attorney-confirmation-tillis>.

prosecutors who were well past their probationary period of federal employment, have been fired with little notice and without explanation.²⁰

More incredibly, in her Senate questionnaire, Ms. Pirro claimed that she was “not aware” that January 6th rioters who were convicted of violent assaults on police officers were given full and unconditional pardons by President Trump,²¹ despite the fact that, according to DOJ’s own statistics, since taken down from DOJ’s website, “approximately 608” January 6th defendants have been “charged with assaulting, resisting, or impeding law enforcement agents or officers or obstructing those officers during a civil disorder, including approximately 174 defendants charged with using a deadly or dangerous weapon or causing serious bodily injury to an officer.”²² Among the higher profiled cases was Julian Khater, who pleaded guilty to “two counts of assaulting, resisting, or impeding officers with a dangerous weapon” and admitted using pepper spray on U.S. Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick, who died the following day.²³ At least three January 6th defendants also pleaded guilty to assaulting Metropolitan Police Department Officer Michael Fanone, a father of three who “suffered a heart attack and a traumatic brain injury during the attack” and was forced to retire from the police force.²⁴ Of course, all of these defendants, along with more than 1,500 others, were pardoned by President Trump on his first day in office.²⁵ Ms. Pirro’s brazen denial of these publicly available and widely reported cases is truly chilling.

Ms. Pirro’s nomination would do further damage to an already battered DOJ and D.C. U.S. Attorney’s Office, where the career attorneys and staff are demoralized and intimidated from constant threats of retaliation, demotions, and firings, and from which experienced

²⁰ Ryan Riley, *Pam Bondi fires three Jan. 6 prosecutors, sending another chill through DOJ workforce*, NBC NEWS (June 27, 2025), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/attorney-general-pam-bondi-fires-jan-6-prosecutors-capitol-riot-doj-rcna215661>; Jacob Rosen & Scott MacFarlane, *Justice Department purge continues; firings include Trump classified document case investigators and Jan. 6 prosecutors*, CBS NEWS (July 12, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/justice-department-firings-include-trump-investigators-jan-6-prosecutors/>; See also Jay Weaver, *Bondi fires prosecutor in Miami as part of purges tied to Jan. 6 Trump case*, MIAMI HERALD (July 14, 2025), <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/article310611450.html>.

²¹ Benjamin Weiss (@BenjaminSWeiss), X (July 16, 2025, 12:39 P.M.), <https://x.com/BenjaminSWeiss/status/1945523713031499968/photo/1>.

²² Tom Joscelyn, *What Just Happened: Trump’s January 6 Pardons and Assaults on Law Enforcement Officers By The Numbers*, JUST SECURITY (Jan. 22, 2025), <https://www.justsecurity.org/106689/january-6-pardons-statistics/>.

²³ Department of Justice, *Press Release: Defendants From New Jersey And West Virginia Sentenced For Assaulting Officers During Jan. 6 Capitol Breach* (Jan. 27, 2023), <https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/defendants-new-jersey-and-west-virginia-sentenced-assaulting-officers-during-jan-6>.

²⁴ According to *Just Security*, “Daniel Rodriguez pleaded guilty on Feb. 14, 2023, to tasing Officer Fanone, as well as other charges. Another defendant, Kyle Young, pleaded guilty on May 5, 2022, to assaulting Officer Fanone, as he “held the officer’s left wrist” and “pulled” Fanone’s “arm away from his body.” During the attack on officers in a Capitol tunnel, Mr. Young also “held a strobe light toward the police line and pushed forward a stick-like object.” A third man, Albuquerque Head, pleaded guilty to dragging Officer Fanone into the crowd of rioters, yelling “I got one!” Mr. Rodriguez was subsequently sentenced to more than 12 years in prison, while Mr. Young received more than seven years and Mr. Head was sentenced to seven and a half years in prison. Tom Joscelyn, *What Just Happened: Trump’s January 6 Pardons and Assaults on Law Enforcement Officers By The Numbers*, JUST SECURITY (Jan. 22, 2025), <https://www.justsecurity.org/106689/january-6-pardons-statistics/>.

²⁵ Max Matza, *Proud Boys and Oath Keepers among over 1,500 Capitol riot defendants pardoned by Trump*, BBC (Jan 20, 2205), <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c5y7147xrpko>.

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The Honorable Chuck Schumer
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prosecutors who have served multiple administrations are leaving in droves.²⁶ It is part of a sweeping effort by President Trump to install loyalists in the nation's premier and most powerful law enforcement agency. President Trump has already installed his former personal defense counsel, including Pam Bondi, Todd Blanche, and, until recently, Emil Bove, into the most senior positions at DOJ, all but ensuring the DOJ would act as Mr. Trump's personal law firm rather than as the nation's major law enforcement instrumentality for the public interest. Ms. Pirro's appointment to lead the crucial D.C. U.S. Attorney's Office will further erode the Department's credibility and do untold damage to the DOJ's and the office's ability to uphold the rule of law and carry out even a semblance of impartial justice. As Senators charged with the responsibility of evaluating and confirming President Trump's nominee to United States Attorney's Offices, surely you must reject this extreme and appalling nomination.

Sincerely,


Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman

²⁶ *Two-thirds of DoJ unit defending Trump policies in court have quit*, THE GUARDIAN (July 15, 2025), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jul/15/trump-doj-unit-staff-exodus>.