

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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September 25, 2025

The Honorable Pamela J. Bondi
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Bondi:

Last week, President Trump forced the resignation of Erik S. Siebert, a career prosecutor who President Trump himself had just months earlier nominated to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia. Mr. Siebert's offense? He refused to concoct and endorse baseless charges against two of President Trump's adversaries: New York Attorney General Letitia James and former Federal Bureau of Investigation Director James Comey.¹ Mr. Siebert's coerced departure is a shocking new low in President Trump's systematic campaign to transform the Justice Department from a guardian of the rule of law into an instrument of presidential vengeance and corruption of American justice.

The persecution of Ms. James began when William Pulte, Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), launched a nationwide fishing expedition into the mortgage records of President Trump's perceived enemies.² As I detailed in a letter to Mr. Pulte dated September 8, 2025—which has gone unanswered—Mr. Pulte has shamelessly abused FHFA's authority by selectively and vindictively investigating President Trump's rivals, including Senator Adam Schiff, Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook, and Ms. James.³ (Mr. Pulte has conspicuously ignored very similar mortgage problems affecting Republican officials, including Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, Labor Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer, Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin, Texas

¹ See Glenn Thrush et al., *U.S. Attorney Investigating Two Trump Foes Departs Amid Pressure From President*, N.Y. TIMES (Sept. 19, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/19/us/politics/erik-siebert-comey-letitia-james.html>.

² See Jack Goldsmith, *How Should a DOJ Political Appointee Think About a Trump-Weaponized DOJ?*, EXEC. FUNCTIONS (Sept. 22, 2025), <https://executivefunctions.substack.com/p/how-should-a-doj-political-appointee>.

³ Letter from Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to William Pulte, Director, Federal Housing Finance Agency (Sept. 8, 2025), <https://democrats-judiciary.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-judiciary.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2025-09-08.raskin-to-pulte-fhfa-re-mortgage-fraud.pdf>; see also Zachary Basu, *Unlikely Enforcers Shape Trump's "Weaponization" Crusade*, AXIOS (Aug. 21, 2025), <https://www.axios.com/2025/08/21/trump-weaponization-revenge-doj-gabbard> (noting that, in an administration of sycophants, Mr. Pulte and Department of Justice Weaponization Working Group attorney Ed Martin "stand out for how aggressively they've shattered norms in pursuit of the president's enemies").

Attorney General Ken Paxton, and members of Mr. Pulte's own family.⁴) As a result, Mr. Siebert, a career prosecutor who was praised by Virginia's Republican Governor Glenn Youngkin and nominated by President Trump just several months ago, conducted an investigation into the claims referred by Mr. Pulte.⁵ That five-month inquiry included interviews with more than a dozen witnesses.⁶

Based on his investigation, Mr. Siebert concluded that there was no basis to bring charges against Ms. James. Criminal mortgage fraud requires "knowingly mak[ing] any false statement" for "the purpose of influencing" a mortgage decision.⁷ Mr. Siebert found significant evidence that Ms. James's erroneous entry on one of several mortgage forms was simply an inadvertent mistake. In particular, Ms. James had emailed a mortgage broker shortly before signing the disputed document, emphasizing that "[t]his property WILL NOT be my primary residence."⁸ On another loan form that asked, "Will you occupy the property as your primary residence?," Ms. James checked the box marked "NO."⁹ As Mr. Siebert evidently concluded, it is hard to see how Ms. James committed criminal mortgage fraud when she repeatedly made clear to her lenders that she did not intend to reside at the property.

Mr. Siebert also concluded that there was no basis to bring charges against Mr. Comey. Federal prosecutors investigated President Trump's claims that Mr. Comey had lied under oath about authorizing leaks to the press and assessed whether he had improperly disclosed classified information.¹⁰ As part of that investigation, Mr. Siebert subpoenaed and interviewed Daniel Richman, one of Mr. Comey's close friends and advisors, about whether Mr. Comey had

⁴ See Robert Faturechi et al., *Trump Is Accusing Foes With Multiple Mortgages of Fraud. Records Show 3 of His Cabinet Members Have Them.*, PROPUBLICA (Sept. 4, 2025), <https://www.propublica.org/article/trump-cabinet-mortgage-fraud>; Steve Benen, *Mortgage Fraud Allegations Generate Even More Political Headaches For Team Trump*, MSNBC (Sept. 17, 2025), <https://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow-show/maddowblog/mortgage-fraud-allegations-generate-even-political-headaches-team-trump-rcna231929>; Pooja Salhotra, *Ken Paxton Claimed Three Houses as His Primary Residence, Records Show*, N.Y. TIMES (July 24, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/24/us/politics/ken-paxton-mortgage.html>; Marisa Taylor et al., *Exclusive: Bill Pulte Accused Fed Governor Lisa Cook Of Fraud. His Relatives Filed Housing Claims Similar to Hers*, REUTERS (Sept. 5, 2025), <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/bill-pulte-accused-fed-governor-lisa-cook-fraud-his-relatives-filed-housing-2025-09-05/>.

⁵ See Salvador Rizzo et al., *Top Virginia Prosecutor Resigns Amid Criticism Over Letitia James Investigation*, WASH. POST (Sept. 20, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/09/19/trump-letitia-james-erik-siebert-virginia/>.

⁶ See Peter Charalambous et al., *Trump Officials Pressuring Federal Prosecutors to Bring Criminal Charges Against NY AG Letitia James: Sources*, ABC NEWS (Sept. 17, 2025), <https://abcnews.go.com/US/trump-officials-pressuring-federal-prosecutors-bring-criminal-charges/story?id=125636577>.

⁷ 18 U.S.C. § 1014.

⁸ See Ruth Marcus, *Donald Trump's Firing of a Federal Prosecutor Crosses the Reddest of Lines*, NEW YORKER (Sept. 21, 2025), <https://www.newyorker.com/news/the-lede/donald-trumps-firing-of-a-federal-prosecutor-crosses-the-reddest-of-lines>.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ See Glenn Thrush et al., *U.S. Attorney Investigating Two Trump Foes Departs Amid Pressure From President*, N.Y. TIMES (Sept. 19, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/19/us/politics/erik-siebert-comey-letitia-james.html>.

authorized Mr. Richman to leak memos to the press.¹¹ Mr. Siebert ultimately was unable to identify any basis for bringing criminal charges against Mr. Comey.¹²

But facts do not matter to this Administration. When President Trump got word that Mr. Siebert found the evidence insufficient to prosecute Ms. James or Mr. Comey, President Trump publicly declared “I want him out.”¹³ President Trump justified his comments by saying that Mr. Siebert—a conservative prosecutor and 15-year veteran of the U.S. Attorney’s Office, who Virginia’s GOP Governor had recommended for the post—had also received support from Virginia’s two Democratic Senators.¹⁴ But the reason for the ouster was obvious: President Trump wanted Mr. Siebert gone because he would not do the President’s dirty work by bringing baseless charges against the President’s enemies.

Mr. Siebert then submitted his resignation in an email to staff.¹⁵ But even that wasn’t enough for our vindictive President, who took to Truth Social to insist that Mr. Siebert didn’t quit: “I fired him.”¹⁶ President Trump then vented to you in what may have been a mistakenly posted private message,¹⁷ ordering you to quickly prosecute his perceived political enemies, calling Ms. James, Mr. Comey, and Senator Schiff “guilty as hell,” describing a “GREAT CASE” against them, and adding that “[w]e can’t delay any longer, it’s killing our reputation and credibility.”¹⁸ His message ended “JUSTICE MUST BE SERVED, NOW!!!”¹⁹ Perhaps realizing his mistake, President Trump deleted the message, but soon thereafter edited and re-posted it.²⁰ In a subsequent post, President Trump suggested that he wants his new prosecutor in Virginia “to get things moving.”²¹

¹¹ *Id.*; see Alexander Mallin & Katherine Faulders, *Friend of Former FBI Director James Comey Subpoenaed In Federal Probe: Sources*, ABC NEWS (Sept. 17, 2025), <https://abcnews.go.com/US/friend-former-fbi-director-james-comey-subpoenaed-federal/story?id=125666973>.

¹² See Glenn Thrush et al., *U.S. Attorney Investigating Two Trump Foes Departs Amid Pressure From President*, N.Y. TIMES (Sept. 19, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/19/us/politics/erik-siebert-comey-letitia-james.html>.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ See Ruth Marcus, *Donald Trump’s Firing of a Federal Prosecutor Crosses the Reddest of Lines*, NEW YORKER (Sept. 21, 2025), <https://www.newyorker.com/news/the-lede/donald-trumps-firing-of-a-federal-prosecutor-crosses-the-reddest-of-lines>.

¹⁵ See Glenn Thrush et al., *U.S. Attorney Investigating Two Trump Foes Departs Amid Pressure From President*, N.Y. TIMES (Sept. 19, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/19/us/politics/erik-siebert-comey-letitia-james.html>.

¹⁶ Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), Truth Social (Sept. 20, 2025, 6:44 PM), <https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/115239044548033727>.

¹⁷ See Asawin Suebsaeng & Andrew Perez, *Trump Officials Didn’t Know If His Order to Prosecute Foes Was Meant to Be Secret*, ROLLING STONE (Sept. 21, 2025), <https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-features/trump-bondi-order-prosecute-enemies-james-schiff-comey-1235432027/>.

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ *Id.*; see also Alan Feuer et al., *Trump Demands That Bondi Move ‘Now’ to Prosecute Foes*, N.Y. TIMES (Sept. 20, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/20/us/politics/trump-justice-department-us-attorneys.html>.

²⁰ See Asawin Suebsaeng & Andrew Perez, *Trump Officials Didn’t Know If His Order to Prosecute Foes Was Meant to Be Secret*, ROLLING STONE (Sept. 21, 2025), <https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-features/trump-bondi-order-prosecute-enemies-james-schiff-comey-1235432027/>.

²¹ Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), Truth Social (Sept. 20, 2025, 7:51 PM), <https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/115239306164275142>.

Mr. Siebert's removal and President Trump's rhetoric are part of this Administration's campaign to transform the Justice Department into the President's personal vengeance squad. Since taking power, your Justice Department has:

- Dismissed more than a dozen career prosecutors for previously working on the criminal investigations against President Trump;²²
- Dropped bribery charges against New York Mayor Eric Adams after he pledged loyalty to President Trump's immigration purges, causing the acting U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York and four Assistant U.S. Attorneys to resign;²³
- Emptied the Public Integrity Section from 36 lawyers down to two, leaving it a hollow shell incapable of investigating public corruption;²⁴
- Killed an investigation and buried evidence regarding "Border Czar" Tom Homan's receipt of a \$50,000 cash bribe in exchange for promising to deliver federal contracts;²⁵
- Blocked the release of critical documents about Jeffrey Epstein's potential co-conspirators, including documents about Mr. Epstein's relationship to President Trump, and astonishingly claimed that there was no evidence to support charges against any other individuals involved in Mr. Epstein's multi-year, international sex trafficking ring that victimized more than 1,000 women and involved more than \$1.5 billion in suspicious transactions;²⁶ and

²² See Glenn Thrush et al., *Justice Dept. Fires Prosecutors Who Worked on Trump Investigations*, N.Y. TIMES (Jan. 27, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/27/us/politics/justice-department-firings-trump-jack-smith.html>.

²³ See Jonah E. Bromwich & William K. Rashbaum, *3 Adams Case Prosecutors Resign Rather Than Express Regret to Justice Dept.*, N.Y. TIMES (Apr. 22, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/22/nyregion/eric-adams-prosecutors-resign.html>.

²⁴ See Jose Pagliery, *The Justice Department Had 36 Lawyers Fighting Corruption Full-Time. Under Trump, It's Down to Two.*, NOTUS (Sept. 22, 2025), <https://www.notus.org/courts/doj-public-integrity>.

²⁵ See Letter from Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Pamela J. Bondi, Attorney General, U.S. Dep't of Justice (Sept. 22, 2025), <https://democrats-judiciary.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-judiciary.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2025-09-22.raskin-nadler-lofgren-et-al-to-bondi-doj-patel-fbi-re-homan-1.pdf>.

²⁶ See Letter from Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Pamela J. Bondi, Attorney General, U.S. Dep't of Justice (July 8, 2025), <https://democrats-judiciary.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-judiciary.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2025-07-08.raskin-goldman-et-al-to-bondi-doj%29-re-smith-report-epstein-files.pdf>; Press Release, H. Comm on the Judiciary Democrats, *Under Director Kash Patel, FBI Is Covering Up Trump's Relationship with Epstein, Sacking Experienced Counterterrorism Agents, and Endangering Public Safety* (Sept. 17, 2025), <https://democrats-judiciary.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/under-director-kash-patel-fbi-is-covering-up-trump-s-relationship-with-epstein-sacking-experienced-counterterrorism-agents-and-endangering-public-safety>.

- Most recently, threatened to investigate and prosecute journalists, attorneys, peaceful protesters, and Members of Congress who criticize the Administration.²⁷

President Trump—with you as a willing partner—is obliterating centuries of prosecutorial independence and steering the Justice Department into dangerous new territory. Then-Attorney General Robert Jackson warned in 1940 that “the most dangerous power of the prosecutor” is “that he will pick people that he thinks he should get, rather than pick cases that need to be prosecuted”—in other words, that a prosecutor will “pick[] some person whom he dislikes” and then “search[] the law books, or put[] investigators to work, to pin some offense on him.”²⁸ That subversion of justice, designating a target and then finding the crime, is precisely what President Trump demanded of Mr. Siebert.

And that is clearly what President Trump now expects of his hand-picked replacement, Lindsey Halligan, whose principal qualification appears to be her utter subservience to President Trump. Ms. Halligan has no experience as a prosecutor. But she served on President Trump’s legal defense team in the Mar-a-Lago classified documents investigation and helped conduct an Orwellian review of Smithsonian museums for compliance with President Trump’s vision of American history, which insisted on White House-driven “content corrections” and “replacing divisive or ideologically driven language” with “constructive” depictions of American and world history.²⁹ Her installation raises the urgent question of what promises she made to secure this position—and whether she has pledged to bring the very prosecutions that Mr. Siebert, after careful investigation, determined were legally baseless.

President Trump is waging an unprecedented campaign of vengeance against his enemies. That campaign, including the charges against Ms. James, Mr. Comey, and others that we all see coming, is a scandalous and indefensible assault on equal and impartial justice in America.

Accordingly, pursuant to the House Judiciary Committee’s jurisdiction over the Department of Justice and our continuing investigation into the Administration’s pattern of abusing its prosecutorial and law enforcement functions, I demand that you provide the following to the Committee no later than 5:00 p.m., October 2, 2025:

1. All documents and communications regarding the resignation or removal of acting United States Attorney Erik Siebert from his position, including any performance evaluations or disciplinary records;

²⁷ See Peter Baker, *In Assault on Free Speech, Trump Targets Speech He Hates*, N.Y. TIMES (Sept. 21, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/21/us/politics/trump-free-speech.html>; Jeremy Roebuck & Salvador Rizzo, *Trump’s New Demands on Justice Department Raise Alarm Among Prosecutors*, WASH. POST (Sept. 22, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/09/22/trump-justice-department-prosecutions/>.

²⁸ Robert H. Jackson, *The Federal Prosecutor*, 31 J. AM. INST. CRIM. L. & CRIMINOLOGY 3, 5 (1940).

²⁹ See Melissa Quinn & Jacob Rosen, *Lindsey Halligan, Trump’s Former Defense Lawyer, Sworn In As Interim U.S. Attorney In Key Virginia Office*, CBS NEWS (Sept. 22, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/lindsey-halligan-trumps-former-defense-lawyer-sworn-in-as-interim-us-attorney/>; Nicole Markus, *Trump’s Smithsonian Overhaul ‘A Bit Like Censorship,’ Former Staff Warn*, POLITICO (Sept. 3, 2025), <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/09/03/trumps-smithsonian-overhaul-a-bit-like-censorship-former-staff-warn-00542213>.

2. All communications between any official or employee at the Justice Department and any official or employee at the White House, including President Trump, regarding prosecution referrals to the Justice Department involving current or former public officials, including but not limited to Letitia James, James Comey, Senator Adam Schiff, and Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook, from January 20, 2025, to the present;
3. All documents and communications between Justice Department officials and William Pulte, on personal or official channels, regarding investigations of Letitia James, James Comey, Senator Adam Schiff, Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook, and any other current or former public officials;
4. All documents regarding the selection and appointment of Lindsey Halligan as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, including her application materials, any vetting documents, any communications about her qualifications, and any promises or commitments she may have made to the White House or the Justice Department regarding prosecuting any specific individuals; and
5. All versions of Justice Department policies and procedures regarding investigations of political figures, including any modifications made since January 20, 2025.

I look forward to your prompt compliance with these important oversight requests.

Very truly yours,



Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman