

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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February 25, 2026

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

Dear Attorney General Bondi:

Who is running the Antitrust Division at the Department of Justice (DOJ)?

Is it an officer of the court, sworn to administer justice impartially and uphold the law without fear or favor?

Or it a partisan operative who wields the power of the state to reward the President and his allies while targeting companies and silencing viewpoints he personally dislikes?

Recently, the leader of the Antitrust Division, Assistant Attorney General (AAG) Gail Slater—a Trump appointee—was forced to resign from her post.¹ AAG Slater was confirmed by a large bipartisan majority in the Senate. President Trump, upon nominating her, commended her as someone who would “help ensure that our competition laws are enforced, both vigorously and FAIRLY... .”² Yet, just 11 months after her confirmation, AAG Slater has been ousted by the Administration that appointed her.

Just three days before AAG Slater was pushed out, the Principal Deputy AAG in the Antitrust Division, Mark Hamer, also resigned.³ Last July, AAG Slater’s previous Principal Deputy, Roger Alford, and the Antitrust Division’s head of Merger Enforcement, Bill Rinner, were both fired by your then-Chief of Staff Chad Mizelle for “insubordination.” The firings came after career DOJ lawyers raised concerns about irregularities and potential corruption at your

¹ Wiktoria Gucia, *Trump Throws Business into Chaos by Firing Key Official*, DAILY BEAST (Feb. 12, 2026), <https://www.thedailybeast.com/trump-throws-business-into-chaos-by-firing-gail-slater-assistant-attorney-general-for-antitrust/>.

² Diana Nerozzi, *Trump Announces Picks For IRS, SEC, NASA and a New ‘Hostage Affairs’ Envoy*, N.Y. POST (Dec. 4, 2024), <https://nypost.com/2024/12/04/us-news/trump-announces-picks-for-irs-sec-nasa-and-a-new-hostage-affairs-envoy/> (emphasis in original).

³ Steve Kopack & Daniel Arkin, *Justice Department’s Antitrust Chief Says She’s Leaving, Effective Immediately*, NBC NEWS (Feb. 12, 2026), <https://www.nbcnews.com/business/business-news/justice-antitrust-chief-slater-leaving-rcna258759>.

Department of Justice regarding Hewlett-Packard Enterprises' (HPE) proposed acquisition of Juniper Networks, Inc., a merger that has major implications for our country's enterprise-grade wireless networking market.⁴ Last August, we wrote to you about DOJ's decision to settle with HPE and Juniper despite AAG Slater's opposition. We raised concerns about inappropriate and potentially corrupt political considerations that appear to have guided the settlement.⁵ Six months later, we are still awaiting a substantive response to the letter.

Thankfully, one of the fired leaders of the Division, Mr. Alford, has decided to blow the whistle on troubling influence peddling at the Antitrust Division. Mr. Alford warns that the rule of law had been overridden by the "rule of lobbyists" and that the influence of MAGA lobbyists has led to "perverted justice" and actions "inconsistent with the rule of law."⁶

Further reporting suggests DOJ leadership and lobbyists improperly interfered with the Division's challenge to a controversial merger between American Express Global Business Travel (Amex GBT) and CWT Holdings. The Division was ordered to dismiss the matter, in order to avoid settlement disclosure requirements under the Tunney Act which "could expose the deep involvement of corporate lobbyists and pay-to-play policymaking to the light of day."⁷ The matter was dismissed just days after Mr. Alford and Mr. Rinner were fired.⁸ It appears the dismissal may have also prevented the disclosure of contacts between DOJ officials and Ballard Partners, a lobbying firm with close ties to President Trump where you were a partner until January 2025. Ballard Partners was hired by Amex GBT to lobby the Administration on antitrust issues and was paid \$200,000 for this work in the first six months of 2025.⁹

With the departure of AAG Slater, it appears there are no longer any principled antitrust experts left to guard the Antitrust Division from this cascade of corruption. The leadership vacuum is occurring just as the Antitrust Division is handling historic cases and merger reviews that will affect the welfare of every American. These cases include: the competing proposals to acquire Warner Bros Discovery by Netflix and Paramount, which would represent a monumental shift in the entertainment industry;¹⁰ the appeal of the Google Search decision which has

⁴ Hugo Lowell, *US Antitrust Chief Gail Slater Ousted From Trump Justice Department*, THE GUARDIAN (Feb. 12, 2026), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/feb/12/us-antitrust-gail-slater-ousted-trump-administration>; Hannah Rabinowitz & David Goldman, *Justice Department Fires Two Senior Antitrust Attorneys, Alleging Insubordination*, CNN (July 29, 2025), <https://www.cnn.com/2025/07/29/politics/justice-department-fires-two-senior-antitrust-attorneys>.

⁵ Letter from Ranking Member Jamie Raskin, H. Comm. on the Judiciary and Ranking Member Jerrold Nadler, Subcommittee on the Administrative Stage, Regulatory Reform, and Antitrust, to Attorney General Pamela J. Bondi, Dep't. of Justice (Aug. 1, 2025), <https://democrats-judiciary.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-judiciary.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2025-08-01-raskin-to-bondi-doj-re-juniper-1.pdf>.

⁶ Roger Paul Alford, *The Rule of Law versus The Rule of Lobbyists*, TECH POLICY INST. (Aug. 18, 2025), <https://techpolicyinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/TPI-Aspen-Final.pdf>.

⁷ David Dayen, *DOJ Does MAGA Lobbyist Bidding Again, Shuttters Another Antitrust Case*, LAW AND JUSTICE (July 29, 2025), <https://prospect.org/2025/07/29/2025-07-29-doj-maga-lobbyist-bidding-shuttters-another-antitrust-case-bondi-ballard/>.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ Peter Adams, *How Netflix's \$72B Warner Bros. Deal Changes the Streaming Calculus*, MARKETINGDIVE (Dec. 5,

The Honorable Pamela J. Bondi

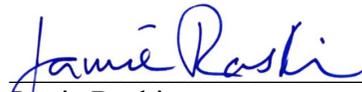
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profound implications for the online search industry;¹¹ and your lawsuits against Apple,¹² Visa,¹³ and Live Nation Ticketmaster.¹⁴ Regarding Live Nation, Mr. Alford has warned that these firms “have paid a bevy of cozy MAGA friends to roam the halls of [DOJ’s] Fifth Floor [which houses the senior leadership offices] in defense of their monopoly abuses.”¹⁵

To address these serious concerns, and to help the Committee understand the circumstances of AAG Slater’s departure—as well as how DOJ intends to remedy the leadership vacuum and crisis striking the DOJ’s Antitrust Division—please provide a briefing as soon as possible. Please reach out to Democratic Committee staff by March 4, 2026, to schedule this briefing.

Thank you for your attention to this important and urgent matter.

Very truly yours,



Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member



Terrold Nadler
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Administrative
State, Regulatory Reform, and
Antitrust

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman

The Honorable Scott Fitzgerald, Chairman
Subcommittee on the Administrative State, Regulatory Reform, and Antitrust

2025), <https://www.marketingdive.com/news/how-netflix-72b-warner-bros-deal-changes-the-streaming-calculus/807139/>.

¹¹ Press Release, *Department of Justice Wins Significant Remedies Against Google*, DEP’T OF JUSTICE (Sept. 2, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/department-justice-wins-significant-remedies-against-google>; David McCabe, *Gail Slater Leaves Role as Justice Department Chief*, N.Y. TIMES (Feb. 12, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/12/technology/gail-slater-antitrust-justice-department.html>.

¹² Press Release, *Justice Department Sues Apple for Monopolizing Smartphone Markets*, DEP’T OF JUSTICE (Mar. 21, 2024), <https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/justice-department-sues-apple-monopolizing-smartphone-markets>.

¹³ Press Release, *Justice Department Sues Visa for Monopolizing Debit Markets*, DEP’T OF JUSTICE (Sept. 24, 2024), <https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/justice-department-sues-visa-monopolizing-debit-markets>.

¹⁴ Press Release, *Justice Department Sues Live Nation-Ticketmaster for Monopolizing Markets Across the Live Concert Industry*, DEP’T OF JUSTICE (May 23, 2024), <https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/justice-department-sues-live-nation-ticketmaster-monopolizing-markets-across-live-concert>; Danielle Kaye, *US Antitrust Chief Resigns Amid Tensions with Trump Officials*, BBC (Feb. 12, 2026), <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cnv6j9vrn06o>.

¹⁵ David Dayen, *Trump Justice Department Poised to Preserve Ticketmaster Monopoly*, THE AMER. PROSPECT (Feb. 12, 2026), <https://prospect.org/2026/02/12/trump-justice-department-ticketmaster-live-nation-monopoly/>. See also, Matt Stoller, *Big Business Has Pam Bondi Fire Trump’s Antitrust Chief*, BIG (Feb. 12, 2026), <https://www.thebignewsletter.com/p/trump-antitrust-chief-ousted-by-ticketmaster>.