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COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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March 12, 2025

The Honorable Michael E. Horowitz
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Justice
Office of the Inspector General
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Inspector General Horowitz:

I write to request that the Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) immediately open an investigation into several recent actions by Edward R. Martin, Jr., the Interim U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, that appear to violate the Constitution, federal statutes, DOJ regulations, and rules of legal ethics.

As detailed below, since taking office, Mr. Martin has used his office to illegally attack critics and perceived enemies of the Trump Administration while endangering the public safety of the citizens of and visitors to our nation's capital. Mr. Martin has already fired over a dozen career federal prosecutors assigned to prosecuting violent crimes in Washington, D.C., simply because they had worked on the investigations of the massive lawless attack on the Capitol on January 6, 2021—an attack Mr. Martin was personally involved in and publicly supported and praised.¹ In addition to firing the January 6th prosecutors, Mr. Martin has demoted senior career leaders within the office to entry-level positions, including the leaders of the office responsible for prosecuting violent crimes and firearms offenses in Washington, D.C., also almost certainly on the basis of political retribution and revenge for doing their jobs.²

Mr. Martin has also threatened to investigate and prosecute critics of the Trump Administration, including journalists, attorneys, peaceful protesters, and Members of Congress, in blatant violation of the First Amendment. He even ordered an attorney to illegally freeze the bank accounts of non-profit organizations who received grants for climate and clean-energy projects, leading to the resignation of the office's career chief of the criminal section. And Mr. Martin violated one of the most basic principles of professional ethics by making court filings on both

¹ Chris Marquette, *Jan. 6 rally organizers issued subpoenas*, ROLL CALL (Dec. 10, 2021), <https://rollcall.com/2021/12/10/jan-6-rally-organizers-issued-subpoenas/>.

² Sarah Lynch & Andrew Goudsward, *Exclusive: Trump's top prosecutor in Washington demotes senior leaders*, sources say, REUTERS (Feb. 5, 2025), <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/trumps-top-federal-prosecutor-washington-dc-demotes-senior-leaders-sources-say-2025-02-28/>.

sides of the same matter, filing both on behalf of the United States and separately on behalf of a criminal defendant convicted of assault in the January 6th insurrection at the Capitol.

I have previously issued oversight requests to Mr. Martin, and he has refused to respond to them or even engage with the Committee. In light of his stunning refusal to cooperate with legitimate congressional inquiries, even while his nomination to be the permanent U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia is pending before the Senate, I am requesting that your office urgently initiate investigations into these profoundly troubling developments detailed below.

I. Participation in the January 6th Attack on the Capitol

Mr. Martin actively participated in the lead-up to the January 6th attack on the Capitol and was present on Capitol grounds himself on January 6, 2021.³ His actions, and his efforts since the attack, raise serious concerns about his political bias and his fitness as the chief law enforcement officer in D.C., one of the largest U.S. Attorney offices in the country, and the primary office that was responsible for overseeing the successful prosecution of thousands of cases related to the violent attack on the U.S. Capitol and its police officers on January 6, 2021.

Following Joe Biden's victory in the 2020 election, Mr. Martin claimed that the election was "corrupt" and that there were "five key states that did not run their voting systems fairly."⁴ As he continued to advance illegitimate claims of election fraud, Mr. Martin became a leader of the "Stop the Steal" movement.⁵ On January 6, 2021, while a violent mob surrounded and attacked the Capitol, Mr. Martin tweeted, "I'm at the Capitol right now. Abd [sic] I was at the POTUS speech earlier. Rowdy crowd but nothing out of hand. Ignore the #FakeNews."⁶ In another tweet, Mr. Martin compared the riot to Mardi Gras, writing: "Like Mardi Gras in DC today: love, faith and joy. Ignore #FakeNews."⁷ Subsequently, Mr. Martin served on the board of the Patriot Freedom Project, a nonprofit that raised money to support January 6th defendants, including individuals who violently attacked police officers.⁸ I am not aware of Mr. Martin ever publicly denouncing the violence against our police officers or invasion of the Capitol.

II. Blatant Conflict of Interest and Ethics Violations in January 6th Cases

³ Alison Durkee, *Trump Nominates Jan. 6 Defense Attorney As Top DC Prosecutor*, FORBES (Feb. 17, 2025), <https://www.forbes.com/sites/alisondurkee/2025/02/17/who-is-ed-martin-trump-nominates-jan-6-defense-attorney-as-top-dc-prosecutor/>.

⁴ Ed Martin, *Stay Focused: Pro America Report with Ed Martin*, PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY EAGLES (Nov. 18, 2020), <https://www.phyllisschlaflly.com/constitution/stay-focused-proamericareport-11-18-2020/>.

⁵ Ryan J. Reilly, *Trump nominates 'Stop the Steal' organizer who advocated for Jan. 6 defendants to be D.C.'s top prosecutor*, NBC NEWS (Feb. 17, 2025), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/trump-nominates-stop-steal-organizer-advocated-jan-6-defendants-dcs-to-rcna192451>.

⁶ Ed Martin (@EagleEdMartin), X (Jan. 6, 2021, 2:53 PM), <https://x.com/EagleEdMartin/status/1346907779492143106>.

⁷ Ed Martin (@EagleEdMartin), X (Jan. 6, 2021, 2:57 PM), <https://x.com/EagleEdMartin/status/1346908666763636741>.

⁸ Tom Dreisbach, *A controversial nonprofit for Capitol riot defendants makes changes after criticism*, NPR (Feb. 10, 2022), <https://www.npr.org/2022/02/10/1078907026/a-controversial-nonprofit-for-capitol-riot-defendants-makes-changes-after-critic>.

After being an active participant in the January 6th insurrection, Mr. Martin personally served as defense counsel for at least three January 6th rioters, all of whom were found guilty at trial. One of Mr. Martin's clients was a rioter named Joseph Padilla,⁹ who—following President Trump's exhortations that his supporters “fight like hell”—joined the violent mob that marched to the U.S. Capitol and confronted a line of Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) officers who were standing behind a bike rack barricade, calling them “traitors,” “oath breakers,” and asserting that the officers were “following unconstitutional orders.”¹⁰ After berating the MPD officers outside of the U.S. Capitol, Mr. Padilla broke through police lines using a metal sign as a battering ram, forced his way into the tunnel on the west side of the U.S. Capitol, and struck an officer in the helmet with a flagpole.¹¹ After the riot, Mr. Padilla posted on social media: “[T]he Declaration of Independence, one of our founding documents, specifically gave me the right to do what I did” and “Yeah, I'm proud of what I did yesterday. It's guns next, that's the only way.”¹²

Following his conviction, Mr. Padilla filed an appeal while Mr. Martin continued to represent him.¹³ On January 21, 2025, the day after he was appointed as Acting U.S. Attorney, Mr. Martin, in his official capacity and while still listed as Mr. Padilla's attorney on record, promptly filed a motion to *dismiss* Mr. Padilla's case in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.¹⁴ Mr. Martin did not formally withdraw from his role as Mr. Padilla's defense counsel until February 5, 2025, two weeks later.¹⁵ Beyond this extraordinary action as a lawyer for both the government and its criminal defendant, Mr. Martin also failed to recuse himself generally from participation in January 6th cases¹⁶ or to seek advice from the career ethics lawyer in his office before seeking to dismiss Mr. Padilla's case.¹⁷

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Man who threw flagpole at police during Jan. 6 riot gets more than 6 years in prison*, ASSOC. PRESS (Sept. 13, 2025), <https://apnews.com/article/capitol-riot-assault-tennessee-flagpole-police-sentencing-378d427e81bf5691b403579eac3bc0e0>; Press Release, U.S. ATT'Y'S OFF. FOR D.C., *Tennessee Man Sentenced to Prison on Eight Felony Charges for Actions During Jan. 6 Capitol Breach* (Sep. 13, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/tennessee-man-sentenced-prison-eight-felony-charges-actions-during-jan-6-capitol-breach>; see also Statement of Facts, *United States v. Padilla*, 1:21-cr-00214-JDB (D.D.C. Feb. 22, 2021), <https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.dcd.228873/gov.uscourts.dcd.228873.1.1.pdf>.

¹¹ *Id.*; see also Statement of Facts at 6, *United States v. Padilla*, 1:21-cr-00214-JDB (D.D.C. Feb. 22, 2021), <https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.dcd.228873/gov.uscourts.dcd.228873.1.1.pdf>.

¹² *Id.*; see also Statement of Facts at 9, *United States v. Padilla*, 1:21-cr-00214-JDB (D.D.C. Feb. 22, 2021), <https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.dcd.228873/gov.uscourts.dcd.228873.1.1.pdf>.

¹³ Colin Kalmbacher, *Federal prosecutor submitted motion to dismiss case against convicted Jan. 6 rioter while still serving as the defendant's attorney of record*, LAW & CRIME (Feb. 6, 2025), <https://lawandcrime.com/high-profile/federal-prosecutor-submitted-motion-to-dismiss-case-against-convicted-jan-6-rioter-while-still-serving-as-the-defendants-attorney-of-record/>.

¹⁴ Gov't's Motion to Dismiss with Prejudice, *United States v. Padilla*, 1:21-cr-00214-JDC (D.D.C. Jan. 21, 2025), https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.dcd.228873/gov.uscourts.dcd.228873.124.0_1.pdf.

¹⁵ Def.'s Counsel's Motion to Withdraw as Counsel, *United States v. Padilla*, 1:21-cr-00214-JDC (D.D.C. Feb. 5, 2025), https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.dcd.228873/gov.uscourts.dcd.2281873.126.0_1.pdf.

¹⁶ In fact, on the day that he was appointed interim U.S. Attorney, Mr. Martin allegedly had direct conversations with a January 6th defendant who still had matters before the court and allegedly made promises about official action. See Reply to the Government's Opposition to Sanctions at 1-2, *United States v. William Alexander Pope*, No.: 1:21-cr-00128-RC (D.C. 2025).

¹⁷ U.S. DEP'T OF JUST., *Ethics Handbook for On- and Off-Duty Conduct*, <https://www.justice.gov/jmd/ethics/ethics-handbook#Conflicts>; Brad Heath, Sarah N. Lynch & Andrew Goudsward, *Top Trump prosecutor in DC dropped federal case against Capitol rioter he represented*, REUTERS (Feb. 5, 2025), <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/top-trump-prosecutor-dc-who-was-present-capitol-riot-dropped-us-case-against-2025-02-05/>.

Mr. Martin's concurrent representation of the U.S. Government and Joseph Padilla blatantly violates the most basic rules of professional ethics. DOJ regulations prohibit attorneys from handling matters involving their former clients for at least one year.¹⁸ Moreover, the DOJ's ethics handbook specifically states that employees should "seek advice before participating in any matter in which [their] impartiality could be questioned."¹⁹ State bar rules in Missouri, where Mr. Martin is licensed, explicitly prohibit attorneys from representing a client when the representation involves a concurrent conflict of interest²⁰ and prohibit government lawyers from handling cases involving their clients without written consent from the agency.²¹ Similarly, Rule 1.7 of the D.C. Bar's Rules of Professional Conduct prohibits attorneys from simultaneously representing clients on both sides of an adversarial matter, a prohibition that is "absolute" and cannot be waived by client consent.²²

III. Political Bias and Retribution in January 6th Cases, Extraordinary Favor for January 6th Defendants

Mr. Martin's conflict of interest and flagrant ethics violations are particularly troubling because his actions since taking office appear to seek retribution against *prosecutors* who participated in January 6th cases. In one of his first moves after being appointed as Interim U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, Mr. Martin fired more than a dozen career federal prosecutors who were originally hired to assist with January 6th cases and had since been assigned to prosecute violent crimes, including gun and drug offenses, occurring in our nation's capital.²³ First-class lawyers all, these prosecutors were not fired for performance issues. They were fired for plainly political reasons. In a memorandum sent prior to the firings, Acting Deputy Attorney General Emil Bove amazingly characterized the original hiring of these prosecutors as "subversive personnel actions by the previous Administration" which he "will not tolerate."²⁴

It has also been reported that Mr. Martin permanently demoted seven high-ranking supervisory or senior prosecutors to entry-level positions, in another apparent act of naked political retribution.²⁵ Each of the demoted prosecutors held top roles in the office's criminal division,

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ U.S. DEP'T OF JUST., *Ethics Handbook for On- and Off-Duty Conduct*, <https://www.justice.gov/jmd/ethics/ethics-handbook#Conflicts>.

²⁰ Mo. Sup. Ct. R. 4-1.7 (2007), <https://www.courts.mo.gov/page.jsp?id=198912>.

²¹ Mo. Sup. Ct. R. 4-1.11 (2013), <https://www.courts.mo.gov/courts/clerkhandbooksp2rulesonly.nsf/40a4488e574d975a86257c5a00744ced/69e255cbcee6319f86256ca60052121a?OpenDocument>.

²² D.C. R. Prof'l Conduct R. 1.7 (2007), <https://www.dcbar.org/for-lawyers/legal-ethics/rules-of-professional-conduct/client-lawyer-relationship/conflict-of-interest-general-rule>.

²³ Spencer Hsu & Tom Jackman, *D.C. U.S. Attorney Fires Jan. 6 Prosecutors, Launches New Probes*, WASH. POST (Jan. 31, 2025) (reporting that the firings impact the violent crime division), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2025/01/31/jan6-prosecutors-fired-dc-martin/>; Kyle Cheney and Josh Gerstein, *DOJ fires dozens of prosecutors who handled Jan. 6 cases*, POLITICO (Jan. 31, 2025), <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/01/31/doj-purges-prosecutors-january-6-cases-00201904>.

²⁴ Memorandum from Acting Deputy Att'y Gen. Emil Bove to DOJ officials (Jan. 31, 2025) (on file with the Committee). See also Sarah Lynch & Andrew Goudsward, *Exclusive: Trump's top prosecutor in Washington demotes senior leaders, sources say*, REUTERS (Feb. 5, 2025), <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/trumps-top-federal-prosecutor-washington-dc-demotes-senior-leaders-sources-say-2025-02-28/>.

²⁵ *Id.*

which handles public corruption, national security, fraud, violent crime, and complex conspiracy investigations, and have worked on politically sensitive matters, including the prosecution of January 6th organizers, the Mueller investigation, and cases involving Trump allies such as Steve Bannon, Peter Navarro, and Roger Stone.²⁶

Finally, after President Trump pardoned or released the violent mob that attacked the Capitol on January 6th, Mr. Martin's office, along with others at DOJ, has adopted an expansive interpretation of the pardons to include criminal charges that are completely unrelated to January 6th.²⁷ One of the beneficiaries is Daniel Edwin Wilson, a member of the Oath Keepers and other far-right extremist groups, who helped devise plans to converge on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.²⁸ On June 3, 2022, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) discovered six firearms in the home of Mr. Wilson, including two with obliterated serial numbers.²⁹ As a result of prior felony convictions, Mr. Wilson was not allowed to possess firearms.³⁰ But as a pardoned insurrectionist, Mr. Martin's office determined that he should get a pass on these firearm offenses too.³¹ On February 25, Mr. Martin's office filed a motion arguing that President Trump's pardon also extended to Mr. Wilson's unrelated firearms conviction, for which he received a five-year prison sentence.³²

IV. Using the Office to Target Perceived Enemies of Mr. Trump and Mr. Musk

Mr. Martin has repeatedly used the powers of his office to protect President Trump's political allies. Recently, Mr. Martin referred to the D.C. U.S. Attorney's Office as "President Trump's lawyers" and said they were "proud to fight to protect his leadership."³³ These public statements and his record since taking office show that he is driven by partisan politics and personal loyalty to Donald Trump rather than his duty of impartially upholding the rule of law, as his oath of office requires him to do. Indeed, in the weeks since Mr. Martin took office, he has used the powers of his office to protect the friends of the Trump Administration.

Mr. Martin has used his office to harass and threaten perceived enemies of his bosses, such as journalists, activists, lawyers, and Members of Congress. This past weekend, Mr. Martin used

²⁶ *Id.*

²⁷ Response to Court's Minute Order Regarding Interpretation of the Presidential Pardon, *United States v. Wilson*, 23-CR-427 (D.D.C. Feb. 26, 2025), <https://www.courtlistener.com/docket/68069032/111/united-states-v-wilson/>.

²⁸ Alan Feuer, *Justice Dept. Takes Broad View of Trump's Jan. 6 Pardons*, N.Y. TIMES (Feb. 25, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/25/us/politics/justice-department-jan-6-pardons.html>.

²⁹ See Statement of Facts, *United States v. Wilson*, 23-CR-427 (D.D.C. May 17, 2023), <https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.dcd.262730/gov.uscourts.dcd.262730.1.1.pdf>.

³⁰ Jason Kandel, *Pardoned Jan. 6 defendant is going back to prison for separate firearms convictions after he was erroneously released*, LAW & CRIME (Feb. 8, 2025), <https://lawandcrime.com/high-profile/pardoned-jan-6-defendant-is-going-back-to-prison-for-separate-firearms-convictions-after-he-was-erroneously-released/>.

³¹ United States' Response to Court's February 24, 2025 Order Regarding Defendant's Motion for Relief Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255, *United States v. Wilson*, 23-CR-427 (D.D.C. Feb. 25, 2025), <https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.dcd.262729/gov.uscourts.dcd.262729.108.0.pdf>; Jason Kandel, *Pardoned Jan. 6 defendant is going back to prison for separate firearms convictions after he was erroneously released*, NEWS BREAK (Feb. 9, 2025), <https://www.newsbreak.com/law-crime-520571/3797587674378-pardoned-jan-6-defendant-is-going-back-to-prison-for-separate-firearms-convictions-after-he-was-erroneously-released>.

³² *Id.*

³³ U.S. Attorney DC (@USAO_DC), X (Feb. 24, 2025, 3:18 PM), https://x.com/USAO_DC/status/1894119675786621225.

his official X account to attack his predecessor, Matthew Graves, accusing him of “us[ing] our \$ to chase political hoaxes while the people of DC were terrorized by thugs with guns.”³⁴ However, his attack on Mr. Graves is far from the only example of Mr. Martin using his office and position to target the GOP’s adversaries.

On February 24, 2025, Mr. Martin weighed in on the ongoing legal dispute between the Trump Administration and the Associated Press (AP), which has been barred from accessing certain White House spaces and events, including the Oval Office and Air Force One, due to the outlet’s refusal to refer to the “Gulf of Mexico” as the “Gulf of America.”³⁵ Specifically, this is the situation in which Mr. Martin referred to members of the D.C. U.S. Attorney’s Office as “President Trumps’ lawyers” and said that “we are proud to fight to protect his leadership as our President and we are vigilant in standing against entities like the AP that refuse to put America first.”³⁶

On February 14, 2025, after press reporting revealed that former Special Counsel Jack Smith had received free legal services from the law firm Covington & Burling, Mr. Martin wrote on X: “Save your receipts, Smith and Covington. We’ll be in touch soon.”³⁷ As some commentators pointed out, the threat likely violates numerous rules of professional conduct and DOJ regulations, which bar a prosecutor from making “extrajudicial comments which serve to heighten condemnation of the accused” and prohibit disclosure of an ongoing investigation.³⁸ Although not formally executed by Mr. Martin, 11 days later, President Trump signed a memorandum suspending security clearances for attorneys at Covington & Burlington who represented Mr. Smith, and “initiated a comprehensive review of all Federal contracts with the firm.”³⁹

As part of the same intimidation efforts, Mr. Martin has also begun aggressive investigation of Members of Congress who have been critical of the Trump Administration and Elon Musk, an effort he called “Operation Whirlwind.”⁴⁰ He has sent unusual “letters of inquiry” to Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Democratic Congressman Robert Garcia, claiming to

³⁴ U.S. Attorney Ed Martin (@USAEdMartin), X (Mar. 1, 2025, 10:23 AM), <https://x.com/USAEdMartin/status/1895857545610137776>.

³⁵ David Bauder, *AP reporter and photographer barred from Air Force One over ‘Gulf of Mexico’ terminology dispute*, ASSOC. PRESS (Feb. 15, 2025), <https://apnews.com/article/trump-ap-news-ban-air-force-one-b90b8b842d63aef9960ccffb4a657dc2>.

³⁶ Jamie Gangel, et al., *Trump ally demotes at least 8 senior federal prosecutors who worked on January 6 cases*, CNN (Feb. 28, 2025), <https://amp.cnn.com/cnn/2025/02/28/politics/federal-prosecutors-january-6-demoted>.

³⁷ Ed Martin (@EagleEdMartin), X (Feb. 14, 2025, 8:19 PM), <https://x.com/USAEdMartin/status/1890571723965390922>.

³⁸ Brendan Ballou, *U.S. Attorney Ed Martin May Have Already Messed Up Trump’s Retribution Tour*, SLATE (Feb. 20, 2025), <https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2025/02/ed-martin-musk-trump-revenge-prosecutions-fail.html>.

³⁹ Press Release, THE WHITE HOUSE, *Fact Sheet: President Donald J. Trump Directs Suspension of Security Clearances and Evaluation of Government Contracts for Involvement in Government Weaponization* (Feb. 25, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/02/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-directs-suspension-of-security-clearances-and-evaluation-of-government-contracts-for-involvement-in-government-weaponization/>.

⁴⁰ Steve Benen, *Trump-appointed prosecutor kicks off ‘Operation Whirlwind,’ eyes Schumer*, MSNBC (Feb. 19, 2025), <https://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow-show/maddowblog/trump-appointed-prosecutor-kicks-operation-whirlwind-eyes-schumer-rcna192878>.

investigate their criticisms of the Administration as violent threats.⁴¹ According to news reports, Mr. Martin has attempted to use his office to seek an indictment against Leader Schumer—an assault on core constitutional protections for political speech so egregious that other Trump appointees at the DOJ blocked these efforts.⁴² As Rep. Garcia has emphasized, the purpose of Mr. Martin’s actions is clear: “They want to silence criticism ... that’s what’s really dangerous.”⁴³

Mr. Martin’s efforts to attack anyone who criticizes Elon Musk and the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) also extend to peaceful protesters. On February 3, 2025, Mr. Martin transmitted a letter to Elon Musk via X about the “public targeting” of DOGE personnel, in which he asked that Mr. Musk “utilize me and my staff to assist in protecting the DOGE work and DOGE workers,” warned that “any threats, confrontations, or other actions that in any way impact their work” may violate numerous laws, and vowed to “pursue any and all legal action against anyone who impedes your work or threatens your people.”⁴⁴ Moreover, in a February 7, 2025, letter sent to Mr. Musk and Boring Company CEO Steve Davis, Mr. Martin vowed that when individuals acted “simply unethically,” he would “chase them to the end of the Earth to hold them accountable.”⁴⁵ Mr. Martin’s professional duties do not include chasing people for allegedly unethical conduct.

V. *Pressuring Prosecutors to Initiate Sham Prosecutions to Fulfill Trump’s Policy Goals*

In his zeal to implement President Trump’s policy priorities to dismantle and defund clean energy projects, Mr. Martin demanded that prosecutors in his office launch a bogus investigation and improperly freeze funds, causing a senior career prosecutor to resign.⁴⁶ The funds at issue are part of the Inflation Reduction Act, where Congress established the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF)—a \$27 billion first-of-its kind program that mobilizes financing and private capital to reduce dangerous climate pollution, lower Americans’ energy bills, create good-paying jobs, and revitalize communities.⁴⁷

⁴¹ Robert Garcia (@RobertGarcia), X (Feb. 20, 2025, 2:55 PM), <https://x.com/RobertGarcia/status/1892664373463683535>.

⁴² Glenn Thrush, *U.S. Attorney Rebuffed by Justice Dept. in Push to Escalate Inquiry Into Schumer*, N.Y. TIMES (Mar. 3, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/03/us/politics/us-attorney-justice-dept-schumer-inquiry.html> ; Spencer Hsu, *D.C. prosecutor drops bid to investigate Schumer for purported threat*, WASH. POST (Mar. 4, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2025/03/04/martin-schumer-trump-investigate-democrats/>.

⁴³ Cassie Semyon, *‘They want to silence criticism’: Garcia pushes back on GOP after DOJ letter about Musk comments*, SPECTRUM NEWS (Feb. 28, 2025), <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nc/triad/politics/2025/02/28/garcia--gop--want-to-silence-criticism--against-trump--musk>.

⁴⁴ Miles Klee, *Musk, Trump Prosecutor Targeting People Who Divulge Identities of DOGE Staff*, ROLLING STONE (Feb. 3, 2025), <https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-news/musk-trump-prosecutor-identities-doge-staff-1235255556/>.

⁴⁵ Ed Martin (@EagleEdMartin), X (Feb. 7, 2025, 11:27 AM), <https://x.com/EagleEdMartin/status/1887901087983689761>.

⁴⁶ See Kyle Cheney, et al., *Senior prosecutor in Washington quits, citing pressure to probe Biden-era climate funds*, POLITICO (Feb. 18, 2025), <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/02/18/denise-cheung-us-attorneys-office-washington-020363>.

⁴⁷ See ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund*, (last visited Mar. 6, 2025), <https://www.epa.gov/greenhouse-gas-reduction-fund>.

In an effort to claw back \$20 billion in grants awarded for clean-energy projects awarded under the GGRF, Mr. Martin demanded that the criminal division chief in his office, Denise Cheung, launch a criminal investigation and freeze a contractor's unspent assets without any probable cause of violation.⁴⁸ Ms. Cheung, a longtime career prosecutor, told Mr. Martin that "the quantum of evidence did not support that action" and refused to open a criminal investigation and freeze the assets. Ms. Cheung stated:

[B]ased upon the evidence I have reviewed, I still do not believe that there is sufficient evidence to issue the [asset freeze] letter you described, including sufficient evidence to tell the bank that there is probable cause to seize the particular accounts identified. Because I believed that I lacked the legal authority to issue such a letter, I told you that I would not do so. You then asked for my resignation.⁴⁹

According to press reports, Mr. Martin then personally submitted a seizure warrant application, signed by no other prosecutor in his office.⁵⁰ The warrant was rejected by a U.S. magistrate judge in D.C., who found that the request and accompanying FBI agent affidavit failed to establish a reasonable belief that a crime occurred.⁵¹ Acting Deputy Attorney General Bove then tried to enlist at least one other U.S. Attorney's office to launch a grand jury investigation, but that effort was similarly rebuffed. Nonetheless, several environmental groups have seen their bank accounts frozen without explanation, and FBI, under new Director Kash Patel, had reportedly questioned Environmental Protection Agency staff regarding the funding.⁵²

Mr. Martin's efforts are consistent with the Administration's general approach to GGRF. Instead of implementing this program as congressionally directed, the Trump Administration has spread baseless claims and misinformation to halt the program. The Administration's lawless attempts to freeze obligated funds—aided by Mr. Martin—not only jeopardize projects that will greatly benefit communities in both red and blue districts but brand the federal government as an unreliable partner to the private sector and ultimately the American people.

* * * * *

In seven short weeks, the list of Mr. Martin's constitutionally, legally and ethically indefensible actions have grown exponentially. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia is one of the largest and most important U.S. Attorney's offices, uniquely charged with enforcing both federal and local laws and serving the nearly 700,000 residents in the District. As the head of the office, Mr. Martin has a responsibility to enforce the laws faithfully and impartially.

⁴⁸ Kyle Cheney, et al., *Senior prosecutor in Washington quits, citing pressure to probe Biden-era climate funds*, POLITICO (Feb. 18, 2025), <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/02/18/denise-cheung-us-attorneys-office-washington-020363>.

⁴⁹ *Read the resignation letter by Denise Cheung, a veteran D.C. federal prosecutor*, WASH. POST (Feb. 18, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2025/02/18/read-resignation-letter-denise-cheung/>.

⁵⁰ Spencer S. Hsu, Maxine Joselow & Nicolás Rivero, *FBI takes up EPA probe amid pushback from judge, prosecutors*, WASH. POST (Feb. 27, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2025/02/27/trump-fbi-epa-grant-investigation/>.

⁵¹ *Id.*

⁵² *Id.*

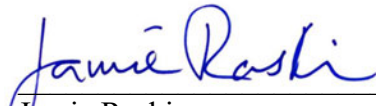
The Honorable Michael E. Horowitz

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But so far, public reporting has indicated that he has failed to adhere to these high ethical standards and may have violated DOJ's own regulations, federal statutes, and the Constitution.

The House Judiciary Committee is charged with the responsibility of conducting oversight of the DOJ. In order to conduct oversight of the D.C. U.S. Attorney's Office, Members must have a full and accurate understanding of Mr. Martin's actions. Because Mr. Martin and the DOJ have declined to respond to our requests for information, we respectfully request that the Office of the Inspector General immediately open an investigation into each of the matters listed above and, upon conclusion, issue a public report detailing your findings about this astonishing sequence of events.

Sincerely,



Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman