

Tony Mattivi, nominated for the United States District Court for the District of Kansas, graduated from Washburn University School of Law in 1994, before launching into his career as a federal career prosecutor. He started this work as an assistant district attorney for the Shawnee County District Attorney's Office, where he led a number of high-profile military prosecutions, including leading the capital case against the al-Qaeda operative who was responsible for the USS Cole bombing. He also served on the team that convicted three militia members for plotting to murder Somali Muslim immigrants.

Mattivi then went on to spend the majority of his career at the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Kansas, spending over 23 years there working on anti-terrorism, prosecution for military commissions, and organized drug enforcement. In 2022, Mattivi ran for Kansas Attorney General, emphasizing in his campaign his pro-life viewpoints, but he lost the race to Kris Kobach. In 2023, Kobach nominated, and the Kansas state senate confirmed Mattivi to be the Director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. While leading the KBI, Mattivi has weaponized his power to harm everyday people living in Kansas.

KBI MISUSES ITS POWER UNDER MATTIVI'S LEADERSHIP

Misusing power to threaten the press. Under Mattivi's leadership, KBI raided a local newspaper, Marion County Record, in a controversial and disruptive episode that was so stressful to those involved it contributed to the death of the owner's 98-year-old mother. The raid was carried out to investigate whether a reporter at the newspaper had committed a crime by verifying information received from a confidential source. Police took away computers, hard drives, and a server, making it nearly impossible for the paper to publish the paper's next issue. The owner of the newspaper emphasized how critical it was that investigations like this do not stand, as it would be the end of people sending anonymous tips to the newspaper, and the end of news organizations pursuing any controversial stories.

Misusing power to threaten immigrants. When ICE agents wanted the KBI's help enforcing restrictive immigration laws, Mattivi ensured that Kansas was the second state to offer that assistance. Mattivi explained to lawmakers that the KBI was working hand in hand with the federal government, helping them determine the undocumented residents that existed on offender registries throughout Kansas. KBI also deputized its state law enforcement to further help enforce Trump's extreme immigration laws. Under the agreement, KBI agents also receive ICE training that authorizes them to arrest immigrants, serve and execute warrants for immigration violations, and even issue immigration detainers. Mattivi noted that he was "pleased" to have this tool at his disposal, despite its questionable legality and its damaging effect on Kansas residents.

KBI MISUSES ITS POWER UNDER MATTIVI'S LEADERSHIP (CONTINUED)

Also under Mattivi's leadership, KBI passed on a tip to local police that resulted in the investigation of a city council membership's citizenship status and required her to prove her citizenship.

A concerned citizen left the tip after hearing Arroyo's state Senate testimony opposing a contentious Kris Kobach supported bill that would have stripped public benefits from immigrants without permanent legal status. In her testimony, Arroyo described herself as an "undocumented immigrant girl" who later benefitted from educational institutions in Kansas.

Even though the city attorney said there was no evidence for the accusation, they still investigated the matter and put Arroyo through an embarrassing, painful, and disruptive process to prove her own citizenship.

This investigation set a dangerous precedent- allowing even questionable tips to result in a full-blown legal inquiry into the citizenship of a well-known councilmember, putting many people of color on edge about when they may face these sorts of baseless and invasive investigations.