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PRESIDENT

**Rachel Rossi**

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June 10, 2026

Senator Charles Grassley  
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee

Senator Richard Durbin  
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Chair Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin,

On behalf of the Alliance for Justice (AFJ), a national association representing nearly 140 public interest and civil rights organizations, we firmly urge you and your colleagues on the Senate Judiciary Committee to reject the nomination of Michael Martin to the United District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Martin's tenure as the Criminal Chief at the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan continues to be riddled with questionable management and participation in politically motivated attacks. As Criminal Chief, Martin serves a leadership role, which reports directly to Trump appointee Jerome Grogon, the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan. Under Martin's leadership, and likely with his approval, a number of politically motivated attacks and actions have occurred in his office, including the firings of two seasoned Assistant United States Attorneys, who simply enforced FACE Act violations.

Like so many other Trump federal judicial nominees, Martin's actions continue to demonstrate unfettered loyalty to Trump above all else – even the laws of the land, and the Constitution. His actions fail to demonstrate the necessary commitment to fairness and independence critical to serving a lifetime appointment on the federal bench. As we're witnessing unprecedented levels of corruption coming out of the Trump administration, we simply cannot afford to support a nominee who would simply rubber stamp Trump's authoritarian agenda. Martin's nomination would further erode our democracy long after Trump leaves office. We urge you to oppose Martin's nomination to the federal bench for the Eastern District of Michigan.

**Martin likely greenlit politically motivated firings for protecting access to abortion care.**

While serving as Criminal Chief for the US Attorney's office for the Eastern District of Michigan, Martin almost certainly would have had to sign off on the politically motivated firings of two seasoned AUSAs with impeccable careers simply because they did their jobs and enforced violations of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (FACE Act). This three decade old statute protects patients, providers, and reproductive health facilities from violence and threats, and AUSAs Frances Carlson and Sunita Doddamani had successfully secured convictions for a group of people who blocked access to abortion clinics, in violation of the FACE Act.

Within weeks of his inauguration, President Trump issued pardons for 23 people convicted of FACE Act violations. Mere months later, the two fired AUSAs were also among those named in a report released by the Trump regime, titled "The Biden Administration's Weaponization of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act."

Unfortunately, these politically charged firings occurred in April 2026, long after Martin's initial interview with members of the Eastern District of Michigan Judiciary Advisory Committee in June 2025. These firings also occurred after Martin's follow-up interview invitation from Senator Peters's office and his second interview with the committee in March 2026. We are not confident that a thorough conversation and investigation of these firings were conducted by Senator Peters's office.

**Martin seems to have volunteered to take up politically charged prosecutions after a slew of Minnesota ASUA resignations.** Following the mass resignation of more than a dozen Minnesota AUSAs after Renee Good's murder, Martin and Eastern District of Michigan AUSAs under Martin seemingly volunteered to join another state's U.S. Attorney's Office to support the filing of politically motivated cases coming out of Minnesota. At least one of these cases, filed by AUSA Danielle Asher (who reports to Martin), was filed in the Eastern District of Michigan, extending the prosecutorial tentacles from Minnesota all the way to eastern Michigan.

Many Justice Department career employees remain at the Department, seeking to preserve justice despite the political corruption and weaponization coming from its highest ranks. Many have resigned when asked to advance the administration's authoritarian agenda. Martin has done neither. Based on credible evidence, Martin has shown enthusiasm to obey and advance the politically corrupt actions of DOJ leadership.

These politically charged attacks, taken in light of a broader pattern of weaponizing the Department of Justice to go after political enemies, raises dire concerns about Martin's ability to serve as an independent judge for a lifetime appointment, free from harmful biases, and committed to fairness and equal justice for *all*, and not just Trump.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to oppose consideration of the nomination of Michael Martin, and to support robust oversight into the circumstances surrounding the removal of dedicated career prosecutors like Frances Carlson and Sunita Doddamani.

Sincerely,

*Rachel Rossi*

Rachel Rossi  
President, Alliance for Justice