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PRESIDENT

Rachel Rossi

CHAIR

Madeline deLone

July 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 organization representing nearly 140 public interest and civil rights organizations, we firmly urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to reject the nomination of Todd Blanche to serve as Attorney General of the United States. Blanche has spent his career as Donald Trump's personal fixer, acting as Trump's personal lawyer when Trump faced both state and federal criminal charges. Even after joining the Department of Justice (DOJ), the very institution that prosecuted the criminal charges Blanche defended Trump against, Blanche has continued to protect and serve Trump, not the American people. Blanche has a track record of eviscerating the DOJ career public service, politicizing federal enforcement, blocking access to justice for victims of sexual violence, and advancing Trump's authoritarian agenda, harming anyone who dares to stand in the way. Blanche's previous work shows he does not have the independence, temperament, or acumen to serve as Attorney General.

Early in his career, Blanche worked intentionally to advance Trump's agenda and protect those who align themselves with Trump's causes. As a partner at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft, Blanche represented Paul Manafort and Boris Epshteyn, two close associates of Trump. Then, beginning in 2023, Blanche represented Trump in both federal and state criminal cases. Blanche has repeatedly stepped in to defend and protect Trump, regardless of how egregious Trump's conduct was. Blanche defended Trump against accusations that he unlawfully retained classified government records, that he obstructed the 2020 presidential election, and that he falsified business records. Blanche has been eager to defend Trump in the hopes of receiving power in return, and this nomination appears to be his reward for those efforts.

In November 2024, Trump nominated Blanche as Deputy Attorney General, and since April of 2026 he has served as Acting Attorney General. In these roles, Blanche was responsible for overseeing the release of the Epstein files, following the passage of the Epstein Files Transparency Act. Blanche failed to release the full set of files by the legally mandated release deadline, prompting the DOJ Inspector General to launch a formal compliance audit. Not only did Blanche violate his legal obligations in managing this process, but he violated his ethical obligations as well. The files Blanche did release included the unredacted names of victims, prompting the victims to file a class action lawsuit over this egregious violation of their privacy. Over 2.5 million documents still remain unreleased, and earlier this month Blanche once again refused to release additional unredacted records in the final hours of a court-ordered deadline to do so. It would be an affront to survivors across this country to confirm an Attorney General who has a clear record of disregarding and causing further trauma to survivors of unspeakable abuses.

Blanche has also fired or overseen the firings of hundreds of career employees at the Justice Department, frequently for unlawful reasons. This includes having worked on cases Trump does not approve of, for being related to President's enemies, or for declining to initiate political prosecutions or refusing to lie in court. Under his leadership, DOJ has seen unprecedented departures and resignations of its nonpartisan career staff. Not only have many of these actions violated civil service statutes, they have damaged public trust in DOJ and resulted in the elimination of critical supports and justice services for the American people.

Blanche also used his power to create a \$1.8-billion slush fund for Trump and his allies. Blanche settled Trump's lawsuit against the Internal Revenue Service in exchange for a slush fund that would enable Trump's handpicked commissioners to provide payouts to Trump allies, including Trump's political donors and even January 6 insurrectionists. The settlement also barred the government from pursuing claims or reviews against Trump and his family based on past on their tax returns. Even though a federal court blocked the fund, Blanche's DOJ has made clear that the IRS order still stands—continuing to shield Trump from Internal Revenue Service audits and investigations.

Blanche has continued this dangerous pattern in his tenure at DOJ, using the power of the nation's Justice Department to attack Trump's political enemies and reward his allies. Blanche's office pressed for charges to be filed against Kilmar Abrego Garcia, who was deported to El Salvador and brought back under a court order. Before Abrego Garcia was returned to the United States, the DOJ, under Blanche's leadership, charged Abrego Garcia with human smuggling. A federal district court dismissed the charges after finding they were brought as vindictive retaliation against Abrego Garcia.

Blanche also launched criminal inquiries targeting January 6 witness Cassidy Hutchinson, secured a second indictment against James Comey, and secured an indictment of the Southern Poverty Law Center, a well-respected civil rights and racial justice organization. Blanche has not been shy about his intent to continue using the DOJ as Trump's personal prosecutorial arm, noting that Americans should be "happy" that Trump is "deeply involved" in the department's decisions.

As a former Justice Department Official, I have deep respect for the Department's mission to uphold the rule of law, to keep our country safe, and to protect civil rights. Blanche is overtly political and has already demonstrated that he will not advance this critical mission. He has instead shown he is happy to weaponize the government's power to serve Trump's political and personal whims. The Senate has a constitutional obligation to uphold the longstanding reputation of DOJ as an institution of fairness, independence, and integrity. Confirming Blanche will instead cement the harmful destruction of the Department's legacy and public trust in our federal justice system. For these reasons, we strongly oppose the confirmation of Todd Blanche to be Attorney General of the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Rossi".

Rachel Rossi
President, Alliance for Justice