



April 1, 2025

Via E-mail: doj.correspondence@usdoj.gov

Attorney General Pamela Bondi
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Bondi:

As attorneys and members of the New York State Legislature, we write to express our deep concern regarding President Donald Trump's recent public directive urging you to investigate immigration lawyers. We urge you to reject this dangerous and politically motivated request and to instead reaffirm the Department of Justice's commitment to protecting the rule of law and the independence of the legal profession.

Immigration lawyers—many of whom work in nonprofit organizations or provide pro bono services—play a vital role in ensuring that people navigating the immigration system have access to due process and a fair hearing. In a system that does not guarantee the right to counsel, these attorneys are often the only safeguard standing between an individual and life-altering consequences such as detention or deportation.

To investigate lawyers for providing legal representation—especially in the absence of any credible evidence of wrongdoing—is a misuse of the Department's resources and a chilling attack on the integrity of the legal system. It sends a dangerous message that legal advocacy itself is suspect, and that lawyers who take on politically sensitive cases may be punished for doing their jobs.

In New York, we have long recognized that access to counsel is fundamental to justice. We've led the nation in investing in immigration legal services and advancing legislation such as the Access to Representation Act, because we understand that due process means little without a lawyer by your side.

As lawyers, we are officers of the court and stewards of the Constitution. The legal profession—bar associations, law firms, nonprofit organizations, and individual attorneys—must remain free to advocate zealously for their clients without fear of political retribution. As the

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law has rightly stated: *"The people and institutions of the legal profession... are all the nation has left to prevent authoritarian overreach."*

We therefore respectfully call on you to:

- Publicly reject the suggestion that the Department of Justice should investigate immigration lawyers absent any basis in fact or law;
- Reaffirm the Department's commitment to protecting the independence of the legal profession; and
- Ensure that the Department is not used as a tool to intimidate or silence those who defend the rights of others.

This is a moment that demands clarity and courage. We trust that you will stand with the legal community and with the values that undergird our democracy: fairness, integrity, and justice for all.

Sincerely,



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New York State Assemblymember
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Gabriella A. Romero
New York State Assemblymember
District 109



Harvey Epstein
New York State Assemblymember
District 74



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New York State Assemblymember
District 96



Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn
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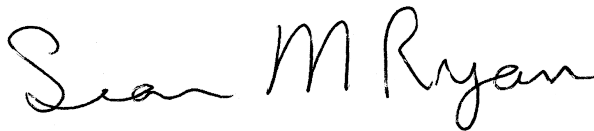
Steven Otis
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District 91



Robert C. Carroll
New York State Assemblymember
District 44



Latrice M. Walker
New York State Assemblymember
District 55



Sean M. Ryan
New York State Senator
District 61



Brad Hoylman-Sigal
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District 47



Luis R. Sepúlveda
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District 32



Phil Steck
New York State Assemblymember
District 110



Nader J. Sayegh
New York State Assemblymember
District 90



Harry B. Bronson
New York State Assemblymember
District 138



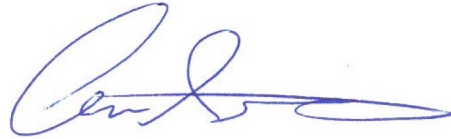
Landon C. Dais
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Jamaal T. Bailey
New York State Senator
District 36



Zellnor Myrie
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District 20



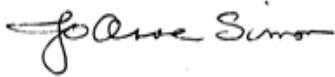
Andrew Gounardes
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District 26



Jennifer Lunsford
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District 135



Clyde Vanel
New York State Assemblymember
District 33



Jo Anne Simon
New York State Assemblymember
District 52



Charles D. Lavine
New York State Assemblymember
District 13



Shelley B. Mayer
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