

Senator Peter Welch
Senate Judiciary Committee
Written Questions for Elizabeth Oyer
Hearing on “The Nomination of the Honorable Todd Blanche to be Attorney General of the
United States”
July 16, 2026

1. In your written testimony, you stated that in his current position at DOJ, Mr. Blanche has removed experienced career personnel, weakened offices responsible for ethics and professional accountability, and fostered a climate in which Department employees fear punishment for providing candid advice.
 - a. Which institutional safeguards against political weaponization and corruption have been weakened or eliminated under Mr. Blanche?
 - b. Do you believe career officials at DOJ remain able to advise that an action or policy desired by the President is unsupported, unethical, or unlawful without a reasonable fear of retaliation? Please explain.
 - c. Based on your experience, how would elevating Mr. Blanche from Deputy Attorney General to Attorney General impact the Department’s internal safeguards against political weaponization and corruption?

RESPONSE: Please see Ms. Oyer’s written testimony before this Committee at pp. 2-10.

2. Please explain why you declined to recommend that the Attorney General restore federal firearm rights to the actor Mel Gibson.

RESPONSE: Please see Ms. Oyer’s written testimony before this Committee at pp. 1-2.

3. During his nominations hearing, Mr. Blanche claimed your termination had nothing to do with your recommendation regarding Mel Gibson. Do you believe that to be accurate? Please explain.

RESPONSE: Please see Ms. Oyer’s written testimony before this Committee at pp. 1-2 and her oral testimony during this Committee’s hearing.

4. After you were terminated, you were asked to testify about the circumstances of your termination before Members of Congress.
 - a. Is it true that, three days before your scheduled testimony, Mr. Blanche’s office had dispatched armed federal law enforcement to deliver a letter warning you about your anticipated testimony? Please explain how you know this to be true or untrue.

- b. To the best of your knowledge, does the Department of Justice typically send U.S. Marshals to deliver letters or notices? Why or why not?

RESPONSE: Please see Ms. Oyer's July 1, 2026 letter attachment to her written testimony before this Committee at pp. 3-4.

Questions for the Record

Elizabeth Oyer

Sen. Adam Schiff (CA)

1. You appeared before a spotlight hearing held by the House and Senate Judiciary Committees in April 2025, following your firing from the Justice Department, where you served as pardon attorney. You testified that you learned of your firing from a three-sentence memo signed by Todd Blanche, which provided no explanation for why you were fired.
 - a. What does Blanche's direct involvement in your firing, after you "declined to rubberstamp a political favor for a friend of the President," tell us about how he will treat career DOJ employees who prioritize public safety and legal ethics over political favors?
 - b. What message does Blanche's decision to fire you for refusing to rubberstamp a political favor for a friend of the President say about this Administration's commitment to equal justice under the law?

RESPONSE: Please see Ms. Oyer's written testimony before this Committee at 1-2; 5-10.

2. Estimates suggest over 230 lawyers, agents, and other employees across the Department of Justice were fired in 2025 alone. How is the unexplained firings of career attorneys at the Department used to intimidate prosecutors and civil servants who refuse to comply with improper mandates from the Trump administration?

RESPONSE: Please see Ms. Oyer's written testimony before this Committee and its attachments, generally.

3. What would it mean for justice in this country if President Trump grants a pardon or clemency to Ghislaine Maxwell?
 - a. What does it say about Blanche that he personally interviewed Maxwell and offered her immunity for her statements?

RESPONSE: Please see Ms. Oyer's written testimony before this Committee at 3.