

PREPARED STATEMENT OF FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN
ASHCROFT

REGARDING THE NOMINATION OF TODD BLANCHE

JANUARY 16, 2026

Good morning, Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin. Thank you.

Members of the Committee: Please allow me to extend my condolences to you--the friends and colleagues of Senator Lindsey Graham. He had a vivid history of bringing out the best in the people he worked with on both sides of the aisle.

Allow me to thank you for your serious consideration and attention to the constitutional responsibility of confirming high ranking executive branch officials. It is an honor for me to participate with you by my appearance here today.

Testifying and sharing my profound support for the nomination of the Honorable Todd Blanche as Attorney General of the United States is something for which I am deeply grateful. Justice is best served in the United States through a commitment to uphold the Constitution

and laws of the United States. Integrity is an indispensable imperative for the rule of law--the best friend of constitutionally guarded liberty.

For the highest quality administration of justice, law enforcement must never be diluted nor contaminated by personal bias or political preferences. Todd Blanche's record of upholding the Constitution and enforcing the law recommends him supremely to serve America as the 88th Attorney General of the United States.

I know of no person--no person of a higher commitment to integrity. He has spoken the unvarnished truth to those he works with and those he works for. Todd's career stands as an outstanding record of public service. He is a consistently well-prepared, tough, but fair prosecutor, fundamentally focused on the Constitution. He understands that he has a profound responsibility to seek justice--not merely prosecute.

During my term as Attorney General--and in his law school years--Todd worked in the Justice Department. Upon graduation from law school, he clerked for two federal

judges, both now serving on the respected, nationally focused Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

Following his clerkships, Todd became an Assistant United States Attorney. At the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, he spent roughly two years as co-chief of the violent crimes unit, overseeing nearly two dozen prosecutors. He then served as co-chief of the office's White Plains division, where he oversaw a wide span of work— public corruption, securities and bank and wire fraud, federal program and Medicare fraud, RICO, and violent crime.

Today, as Deputy Attorney General and Acting Attorney General, Todd energizes the roughly 115,000 employees across Main Justice, the FBI, DEA, U.S. Marshals, ATF, and 93 U.S. Attorney's Offices. He has conducted the Department's daily operations at full scale, demonstrating his readiness to manage the office in his own right.

Todd therefore brings to the Department of Justice a relevant reservoir of experience coupled with sound

judgment on an array of issues related to law enforcement. He understands that the rule of law exists to secure and safeguard the God-given liberties and freedoms of Americans.

In professional moments, both public and private, I have seen Todd's thoughtful, decisive, yet humble leadership. He is a careful and willing listener, skilled at welcoming diverse viewpoints. He is adept at synthesizing and harmonizing differing voices in complex situations. He is comfortable in being held to account, and he will require those in the Department to be similarly accessible and accountable.

Todd Blache's record reflects a commitment to the rule of law and the Constitution. Our 250th anniversary properly reminds us that liberty is the core value of American--in fact, human existence. To safeguard this core cultural value, America needs an Attorney General exclusively devoted to the rule of law and who will unfailingly honor his oath to the Constitution. Todd Blanche is the right person for that responsibility.

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members, thank you for what I consider to be a privilege of communicating to you my unreserved endorsement of Todd Blanche for Attorney General of the United States. Thank you.