

Testimony

Dani Bensky, Epstein Survivor

Opposing Todd Blanche's Confirmation for Attorney General

Senate Judiciary Committee

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In our country, if someone took pictures of you and released your intimate media online without consent, it would make sense for them to face significant legal, financial, and personal penalties. A felony charge might be brought.

In schools, if a student were to release nude photos or details of a peer or underclassman's sexual assault and abuse, they would almost certainly face suspension, if not expulsion.

... and yet, here we are.

Todd Blanche has been at the helm of the release of child sexual abuse material, the outing of Jane Does, and the exposure of over a hundred victims' identifying information in documents that describe intimate acts of abuse, including my own. Instead of seeing the release as its own crime and holding the man who led the release to account, we are about to place him in the highest position of law enforcement in our country. I implore you to think of the message that it sends to our youth, and other survivors of sexual abuse and exploitation, not just across the country but around the world.

This release was devastating for crime victims. Imagine working your entire life to extricate yourself from the horrors of Epstein and his web of co-conspirators, only to be outed by the very government sworn to protect you, while seeing abusers stay redacted. More than just another system that failed survivors over the past five administrations, the careless revictimization, exploitation, and intentional negligence of this DOJ is criminal.

Based on federal law enforcement investigations, internal DOJ and FBI memoranda, and survivor testimony, we know that there are over a thousand women and girls harmed by Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislane Maxwell's network. I am one of them. I am also one of the hundreds who have had their personal experiences and information exposed by our government.

Before the first document release, my attorney teamed up with another law firm representing survivors, and together they submitted 350 victims' names to the DOJ as names that needed to be redacted before the December 19, 2025, deadline.

In that first round of documents, I saw my name in two places. Then in the January release, there were more, and the redactions were far worse. These files displayed my name, phone number,

old addresses, where I worked at the time, where I was studying, and other identifying information. What's important to understand is that these documents weren't somehow just overlooked and not redacted at all. On one document, my nickname is redacted, while Danielle Hannah Bensky is left completely unredacted.

When my name appeared in a third batch of only 20 documents in the spring, it was hard to believe that this was not intentional. After my lawyer continued to contact the DOJ on multiple occasions for protection, my name and information remained attached. These documents hold disturbing, and yet incomplete accounts of my abuse, and they were viewable not only by the entire world, but also by my child, my students, my students' parents, my friends, my employers, my colleagues, and my family. Even more egregious, in my FBI 302, a Jane Doe who has never wanted to be revealed was exposed. This outing of survivor names does real, irrevocable damage.

Damage that comes in many forms.

While, of course, we are working through emotional distress and psychological trauma, we have also endured the loss of privacy and confidentiality as survivors of sexual abuse. We have seen reputational harm, and many of us fear for our own and our families' personal safety. There is ongoing anxiety arising from the permanent dissemination of our identities. We have dedicated time and incurred expenses to address the disclosures. Along with many other survivors, my whole life has been affected by this release. I was a dance educator and choreographer at independent schools. My goal has NEVER been to be political. This is a survivor issue, not a political one. I am a victim of a crime. This should not be political. I should not have to be here today. My survivor sisters behind me should not have to be here today. We should not be seen as political. Politicians are making this very human issue political, while survivors are left with the ghost of Jeffrey Epstein continuing to pull strings and showcase power dynamics, even from the grave.

The redactions aren't the only problem. Learning that senior administration officials, including Todd Blanche, gathered in the White House Situation Room last summer to contain the political fallout from the Epstein files is abhorrent.

Instead of following investigative leads, officials were and continue to treat the files as a political crisis to be managed. The reporting describes urgent discussions about the administration's public response and how to contain the damage.

What it does not describe is the same level of urgency around the questions that matter most to survivors: What unresolved leads remained in the files? Who else participated in Epstein's crimes? Who helped facilitate them? And what was the Justice Department doing to hold those people accountable?

Chairman James Comer had to direct Todd Blanche to open investigations into two individuals. Why did Mr. Blanche need direction from Congress? Isn't it his job to prosecute and find justice for crime victims?

The Epstein files are not merely a collection of embarrassing names or politically damaging associations. They are records connected to the sexual exploitation and trafficking of girls and young women. Crucially, these files may contain information that helps establish how Epstein's operation worked, who assisted him, and whether additional crimes can still be investigated.

The government's first concern should have been protecting survivors, pursuing every credible lead, and determining whether anyone else could still be held accountable. Instead, Blanche's focus remains on the administration's reputational harm.

It is particularly difficult to understand Blanche's presence in those situation room discussions. As Deputy Attorney General, he was not a White House communications adviser. He was the second-highest-ranking law enforcement official in the country. His responsibility was to the Justice Department and to the fair administration of the law.

Why was his priority to manage the political consequences of the Epstein files? Was he also pressing officials to pursue the evidence contained within them? Did he advocate for additional investigations? What steps did he take to identify other perpetrators, facilitators, and co-conspirators?

There is an ongoing theme that survivors experience with Mr. Blanche. We are always left with far more questions than answers.

After several attempts to contact Pam Bondi and Todd Blanche in a variety of capacities, they have never responded to, nor met with us. Survivors have never been given any insight or understanding into any sort of process. We are still in the dark when it comes to how these redactions were made possible, and no one has received any information on how or why it was possible for Ghislaine Maxwell, a convicted sex trafficker, to be moved to a minimum security penitentiary. She was convicted on five felony counts.

Survivors and this country are owed answers.

In our nation all citizens deserve equal protection under the law. Todd Blanche was not willing to work to protect the Epstein survivors confidential information nor was he willing to work to investigate the people who helped Epstein and Maxwell commit these crimes. We need an Attorney General who is committed to making sure that the people who facilitated Epstein's crimes are held to account.

Please think carefully before submitting your vote.