

Written Testimony of Elizabeth G. Oyer
Concerning the Nomination of Todd Blanche for Attorney General
Before the Senate Judiciary Committee
July 16, 2026

Chairman Grassley, Ranking Member Durbin, and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony on the important matter of the nomination of Todd Blanche to serve as the next Attorney General of the United States.

I am one of the many career Justice Department employees fired or forced out by Mr. Blanche after he was confirmed as Deputy Attorney General. But the concerns I want to raise with this Committee are much bigger than myself. As a longtime public servant, I am deeply concerned about where Mr. Blanche is leading the Department. The Department's reputation and credibility have already suffered greatly under his leadership, as has its ability to perform its important work of keeping Americans safe. I have outlined my concerns below for your consideration.

Mr. Blanche fired me after I refused to rubberstamp a political favor for a friend of the President.

Mr. Blanche fired me from my position as the Department's career Pardon Attorney on March 7, 2025, two days after he was confirmed as Deputy Attorney General. I had been a federal employee for over 13 years, after leaving behind a law firm partnership in favor of public service. The details of my firing are outlined in the accompanying letter, which I sent to this Committee on July 1, 2026.

In brief, Mr. Blanche fired me after I declined to rubberstamp a political favor for a friend of the President. I was asked by Mr. Blanche's office to recommend restoring firearm rights to Mel Gibson, a Hollywood actor who I was told has a personal relationship with President Trump. Shortly after Mr. Trump's inauguration, Mr. Gibson's attorney sent a written request to the Department for reinstatement of his firearm rights, citing his relationship with the President and his catalogue of famous films.

Without further investigation—which I was not given an opportunity to perform—I believed it would be dangerous to rearm Mr. Gibson. He lost his right to own a gun when he was convicted of a crime of domestic violence, in which he hit his then-girlfriend while she was holding their baby, punched her in the mouth breaking her teeth, verbally berated her, and threatened her with a gun. Domestic violence is the leading cause of homicide among women. The presence of a firearm makes it five times more likely that a domestic violence victim will be killed.¹

¹ Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, Announcements: Resource Guide for Addressing the Intersection of Domestic Violence and Firearms, at <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/announcements>; see also *id.*, Resource Guide, at <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/resource-guide-addressing-intersection-domestic-violence-and-firearms>.

I communicated my concerns to Mr. Blanche's staff. They pressured me to reconsider. And when I did not change my mind, Mr. Blanche swiftly fired me. Mr. Blanche then took extraordinary measures to keep me quiet, including sending armed U.S. Marshals to my home in an attempt to prevent me from speaking with Members of Congress.

Mr. Blanche has laid waste to the Department's most valuable assets: its credibility and its talented workforce.

The Justice Department's most valuable assets are its credibility and the talented people who work there. Mr. Blanche has laid waste to both. DOJ has lost more than a quarter of its attorneys under his leadership.² This includes senior officials responsible for enforcing rules of ethics, professionalism, and transparency; experts in national security; and other experienced attorneys. Among the staff who remain, morale has never been worse. This has compromised the Department's ability to protect and serve the public.

Across the Department of Justice, Mr. Blanche has dismantled institutional safeguards that are crucial to preventing the corruption and abuse of the Department's vast law enforcement powers. He has created a culture of fear among the Department's workforce. Nonpartisan career experts like myself are not valued or respected—but even worse, they are afraid to give their advice for fear of being punished. That makes all of us less safe.

Meanwhile, courts across the country have openly questioned whether DOJ is still entitled to the presumption of regularity—a doctrine of implied good faith from which the Department and its attorneys have benefitted for generations. Judges have found that they can no longer trust DOJ to tell the truth and uphold the law. There are at least 90 documented instances in which judges (appointed by presidents of both parties) have found that the government has presented false or misleading information in court.³ There are over 700 documented instances of the Department violating judicial orders, either intentionally or by neglect.⁴ This is destroying the Department's credibility.

Mr. Blanche has repeatedly placed the President's personal interests ahead of the interests of the country.

As Deputy Attorney General, and now Acting Attorney General, Mr. Blanche has repeatedly prioritized President Trump's personal, political, and financial interests ahead of the interests of

² Financial Times, *US Department of Justice Loses a Quarter of Its Lawyers* (May 3, 2026), <https://www.ft.com/content/a1316aac-83d9-4e2a-87aa-93de964bbbe0?syn-25a6b1a6=1>.

³ See Ryan Goodman *et al.*, *The "Presumption of Regularity" in Trump Administration Litigation*, Just Security (updated Mar. 19, 2026), <https://www.justsecurity.org/120547/presumption-regularity-trump-administration-litigation/#post-120547-Toc208770527>.

⁴ See Siven Watt, *Immigration Habeas Tracker: Government Obstruction, Judicial Trust, and Accountability*, Just Security (June 22, 2026), <https://www.justsecurity.org/133928/immigration-habeas-tracker/>.

ordinary Americans. As President Trump’s former personal attorney, Mr. Blanche appears to be operating under an irreconcilable conflict of interest.

The deal Mr. Blanche cut with Ghislaine Maxwell—the convicted sex-trafficker and partner of Jeffrey Epstein—is one example. Mr. Blanche’s personal meeting with Maxwell—followed by her transfer to a minimum-security prison camp, where DOJ rules say she does not belong—shocks the conscience, both for its circumstances and its outcome. Maxwell, who is serving a 20-year prison sentence for sex trafficking of children, is not a remotely credible witness. Yet Mr. Blanche spent two days with her, eliciting her assurance that President Trump, once a close friend of Jeffrey Epstein, was “a gentleman in all respects” and “absolutely never” did anything inappropriate.⁵ Mr. Blanche then rewarded her for her trouble with a transfer to a prison camp—even though longstanding DOJ policy prohibits convicted sex offenders like Maxwell from residing in minimum-security camps for the protection of the public.⁶

Mr. Blanche’s solicitous treatment of Maxwell is unjust and repugnant to all Americans. (At their meeting, she was even allowed to select a special meal; she chose Camembert cheese and fresh French bread.⁷) More importantly, along with Mr. Blanche’s botched handling of the Epstein files, it is a tremendous betrayal of his duty to protect the victims of Maxwell and Epstein. Mr. Blanche’s shockingly dismissive approach to the Epstein matter is captured in a comment he made to Fox News in February: “The American people need to understand that it isn’t a crime to party with Mr. Epstein.”⁸

The Department’s purported “settlement” of the President’s \$10 million lawsuit against the IRS is another example of Mr. Blanche placing the President’s personal interests ahead of the interests of the American people. As Acting Attorney General, Mr. Blanche personally signed a

⁵ See James Hill *et al.*, ABC News, *Epstein Associate Ghislaine Maxwell Said She's Not Aware of Any Improper Activity by Trump in Interview with Deputy AG* (Aug. 22, 2025), <https://abcnews.com/US/epstein-associate-ghislaine-maxwell-shes-aware-improper-activity/story?id=124900787>.

⁶ See U.S. Dep’t of Justice, Fed. Bureau of Prisons, Program Statement 5100.08, Inmate Security Designation and Custody Classification, https://www.bop.gov/policy/progstat/5100_008_cn-3.pdf. On May 6, 2026, DOJ without explanation amended this longstanding policy to give the Attorney General the power “to designate or redesignate the place of a prisoner’s imprisonment” at his discretion. In other words, the Attorney General can simply direct the Bureau of Prisons to place a specific prisoner in a specific facility, bypassing the long-established designation and classification process. *See id.* (Change Notice 3). Oddly, the amended policy also allows prison staff to “facilitate communication or correspondence between the inmate and the Office of the Attorney General.” *Id.* This potentially very consequential policy change was not formally announced and has not been explained to the public.

⁷ See Hailey Fuchs, Politico, *Will Trump Pardon Ghislaine Maxwell? Her Lawyer Thinks So.* (Apr. 17, 2026), <https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2026/04/17/markus-ghislaine-maxwell-lawyer-pardon-00871508>.

⁸ Ryan Mancini, The Hill, *Blanche: ‘It Isn’t a Crime to Party with Mr. Epstein’* (Feb. 3, 2026), <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/5719992-doj-todd-blanche-epstein-files-parties/>.

full and permanent release of all potential claims of the United States against Mr. Trump.⁹ The agreement protects the entire Trump family, and all of the family's businesses, in perpetuity, from any type of government investigation or audit. At the same time, Mr. Trump and his sons are making billions from government contracts and industries the President regulates: defense technology, drones, mining, cryptocurrency, firearms, and more.¹⁰ But the American people—whose interests Mr. Blanche swore to protect—get nothing out of the deal. This is corruption, plain and simple.

A federal judge this week characterized the agreement Mr. Blanche signed as “a blanket grant of immunity” for President Trump, his sons, their families, and their businesses. The court found that “acquiescing to any such demand is wholly incompatible with the duties of DOJ attorneys ... to enforce the law and protect the public interest.”¹¹ She wrote: “In abdicating its responsibility to zealously defend the interests of the United States, the Government entered into a ‘settlement’ that deviated from its litigation posture in similar actions, disregarded DOJ policies, and accomplished objectives beyond those authorized, as well as those specifically prohibited, by law.”¹²

Mr. Blanche has repeatedly betrayed his duties to the country. He signed off on a sham settlement agreement to benefit his former client at the expense of the American people. He agreed to give away nearly two billion dollars of taxpayer money, which he has a fiduciary duty to safeguard, to people who have done nothing to earn it. He is failing to protect crime victims—especially women. He is politicizing work that should not be political—like protecting survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. He is using law enforcement powers to pursue petty grudges harbored by the President.

⁹ See <https://www.justice.gov/opa/media/1441216/dl>.

¹⁰ See, e.g., Elizabeth Dwoskin *et al.*, Washington Post, *Trump Sons Invest Heavily in Defense Tech as Father's Administration Pours Money In* (July 13, 2026), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/interactive/2026/07/13/trumps-sons-invest-heavily-defense-fathers-administration-pours-money/>; Dan Rosenzweig-Ziff, Reuters, *Trump Jr.'s 'Amazon of Guns' Could Make Millions Under New Proposed Firearm Rule* (July 2, 2026), <https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/trump-jrs-amazon-guns-could-make-millions-under-new-proposed-firearm-rule-2026-07-02/>; Paul Sonne & Eric Lipton, N.Y. Times, *Trump Cut a Billion-Dollar Mining Deal. His Sons Stand to Profit*. (June 28, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/06/28/world/europe/trump-lutnick-sons-kazakhstan.html>; Tom Bergin *et al.*, Reuters, *Under the Trump Crypto Playbook, the Family Always Wins. Investors Don't* (June 9, 2026), <https://www.reuters.com/investigations/under-trump-crypto-playbook-family-always-wins-investors-dont-2026-06-09/>; Bernard Condon, AP, *New Drone Maker Partly Owned by Trump Sons Hopes to Win Pentagon Contracts* (Mar. 11, 2026), <https://apnews.com/article/drones-eric-donald-trump-powerus-iran-defense-089bff3892f921a10ef4ec785308e716>.

¹¹ Order, *Trump v. IRS*, Case No. 26-cv-20609 (S.D. Fla. July 13, 2026), Dkt. No. 106, at 34-25, available at <https://www.courtlistener.com/docket/72207870/106/trump-v-internal-revenue-service/>.

¹² *Id.* at 51.

Mr. Blanche is treating the Department of Justice as Donald Trump’s personal law firm.

To the American public, it looks like Mr. Blanche is running the Justice Department as Donald Trump’s personal law firm. Rather than pushing back on misplaced and wasteful revenge investigations, Blanche has wholeheartedly embraced the President’s desire to weaponize the justice system against his enemies. He has claimed that the President has a “right” and a “duty” to use the justice system in this way.¹³ He has said Americans should be “happy” that the President is dictating the Justice Department’s prosecutions.¹⁴

We are not happy. All of this is wrong and dangerous. It is the Attorney General’s job to exercise independent legal judgment—not to rubberstamp misplaced, baseless, and wasteful actions by the President. It is the Attorney General’s duty to put brakes on executive actions that damage the rule of law and erode public trust in the justice system. Instead, Todd Blanche has enabled these actions. This dishonors his oath to uphold the Constitution and his duties to the American people.

Mr. Blanche has afforded special treatment to the wealthy and well-connected, at the expense of crime victims and consumers.

Mr. Blanche has allowed a special tier of justice for the wealthy and well-connected. Pardons, the area in which I once worked, are one example. Since my firing, the pardon process has become a chaotic and corrupt free-for-all. Hardly anyone who has received clemency on Mr. Blanche’s watch meets the merit-based criteria historically enforced by the Justice Department.¹⁵ DOJ is not performing the careful vetting that its longstanding pardon guidelines require. This has resulted in staggering rates of recidivism among recent clemency recipients—including at least 14 charged with sex crimes or offenses involving child sexual abuse material, and at least six with domestic violence crimes.¹⁶ Crime victims have been deprived of well over a billion dollars

¹³ See Andrew Goudswaard, Reuters, *Acting DOJ Chief Blanche Says Trump Has ‘Right’ to Influence Investigations* (Apr. 7, 2026), <https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/acting-doj-chief-blanche-says-trump-has-right-influence-investigations-2026-04-07/>.

¹⁴ Laura Jarrett & Ryan Reilly, NBC News, *Todd Blanche Says Americans Should Be ‘Happy’ Trump Is Deeply Involved in DOJ* (Apr. 14, 2026), https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/todd-blanche-says-americans-happy-trump-deeply-involved-doj-rcna331691?cid=eml_nbn_20260414&user_email=32279c4e6f49097a270bda41fed835719db73b31e118e25bfb2ab63376ceb26e&utm_campaign=breakingnews.

¹⁵ See, e.g., Marisa Taylor *et al.*, Reuters, *How to Get a Trump Pardon: Forget the DOJ, Call “Bobby” and Other Influencers*, <https://www.reuters.com/investigations/forget-doj-trump-pardon-call-bobby-other-influencers-2026-06-11>.

¹⁶ See, e.g., Katherine Pompilio, Lawfare, *The Jan. 6 Pardons: How Many Clemency Recipients Have Faced Other Charges* (June 4, 2026), <https://www.lawfaremedia.org/article/the-jan-6-pardons--how-many-clemency-recipients-have-faced-other-charges>.

in restitution owed as a result of pardons.¹⁷ A pay-to-play pardon system has developed that has advantaged the wealthy and well-connected.¹⁸

The outsized influence of money in Mr. Blanche's DOJ is not limited to pardons. Mr. Blanche has repeatedly allowed corporate lobbyists to dictate the Department's decisionmaking in areas of critical importance to American consumers, including antitrust enforcement. For example, Mr. Blanche has pushed through corporate mergers on multiple occasions despite objections and concerns raised by his subordinates with subject-matter expertise—seemingly at the request of a highly paid corporate lobbyist, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.¹⁹ A former high-ranking DOJ antitrust official, who was a political appointee under President Trump, has warned: “Companies are hiring lawyers and influence peddlers to bolster their MAGA credentials and pervert traditional law enforcement.... The cost to the country of this new pay-to-play approach to antitrust enforcement is enormous.”²⁰ Indeed, experts are warning that DOJ's “abdication” of its duties to protect consumers could drive up consumer prices for years to come.²¹

Antitrust enforcement is not the only area where Mr. Blanche has abdicated his responsibility to protect ordinary Americans. He has left consumers vulnerable to fraud and abuse by backing away from investigating and prosecuting cryptocurrency crimes. Shortly after he was confirmed, Mr. Blanche disbanded DOJ's National Cryptocurrency Enforcement Team, an elite taskforce of experts, and issued a memo instructing prosecutors to pull back from cryptocurrency cases.²² He did this while holding hundreds of thousands of dollars in cryptocurrency investments, which government ethics experts have flagged as a conflict of interest.²³

¹⁷ See, e.g., Dan Greenberg, Cato Institute, *President Trump's Pardons: An Embarrassment of Riches* (Feb. 11, 2026), at <https://www.cato.org/blog/embarrassment-riches>.

¹⁸ See, e.g., Rebecca Ballhaus *et al.*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Inside the New Fast Track to a Presidential Pardon: Lobbyists Close to Trump Say Their Going Rate to Advocate for a Pardon Is \$1 Million* (Dec. 23, 2025), at <https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-presidential-pardon-process-dda97c15>.

¹⁹ See Dana Mattioli *et al.*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Threats and Bare-Knuckle Tactics of MAGA's Top Antitrust Fixer* (Mar. 20, 2026), at <https://www.wsj.com/us-news/law/lobbyists-antitrust-trump-davis-f6a02e04>.

²⁰ See Dana Mattioli *et al.*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Top DOJ Official Tells Staff He Wants to Avoid Antitrust Trials* (June 25, 2026), <https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/top-doj-official-tells-staff-he-wants-to-avoid-antitrust-trials-bc5a23ce>.

²¹ See Carol Leoning & Ken Dilanian, *Trump Appointees Are Overruling DOJ Lawyers Scrutinizing Corporate Mergers* (July 9, 2026), <https://www.ms.now/news/trump-appointees-are-overruling-doj-lawyers-scrutinizing-corporate-mergers>.

²² See Memorandum for All Department Employees from the Deputy Attorney General, Ending Regulation by Prosecution (Apr. 7, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/dag/media/1395781/dl?inline>.

²³ See Letter from Campaign Legal Center to DOJ Acting Inspector General (Jan. 22, 2026), https://campaignlegal.org/sites/default/files/2026-01/CLC%20Complaint%20_%20Blanche%20_%20DOJ%20OIG%20%281%29.pdf.

Just last week, Mr. Blanche’s DOJ inexplicably moved to dismiss with prejudice all charges against the alleged mastermind of a \$722 million cryptocurrency Ponzi scheme.²⁴ This failure of enforcement has real consequences for ordinary Americans. Last year, Americans reported more than \$11 billion in losses from cryptocurrency scams according to the FBI—an increase of 22 percent from 2024.²⁵ In Texas, over a billion dollars in losses were reported, including nearly \$400 million in losses suffered by senior citizens.²⁶ The actual losses to Americans from unchecked frauds and scams are likely much greater.²⁷ Meanwhile, President Trump disclosed earning over a billion dollars last year from his cryptocurrency holdings.²⁸

Mr. Blanche has attacked federal judges and fueled dangerous conspiracy theories.

Mr. Blanche has repeatedly attacked judges who do not rule in the Department’s favor on the President’s priorities. This is the last thing we need from the nation’s top law enforcement officer at this time of high political tensions in our country. Mr. Blanche has gone so far as to declare that the Justice Department is at “war” with the judiciary.²⁹ This attitude and rhetoric are dangerous to judges, who have faced unprecedented threats to their safety.³⁰ It is also dangerous to our constitutional order, which is premised on each of the three coequal branches of our government accepting the legitimacy and respecting the authority of the others.

Mr. Blanche has also added fuel to dangerous conspiracy theories that threaten the very foundation of our constitutional democracy—including Mr. Trump’s baseless claims that the

²⁴ See James Cirrone, Fox Business, *Federal Prosecutors to Drop Charges Against Alleged Mastermind of \$722 Million Crypto Ponzi Scheme* (July 11, 2026), <https://www.foxbusiness.com/fox-news-crime/federal-prosecutors-drop-charges-against-alleged-mastermind-722-million-crypto-ponzi-scheme>; Ben Penn, Bloomberg Law, *US to Drop Charges for Alleged \$722 Million Crypto Fraudster* (July 10, 2026), <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/us-law-week/us-to-drop-charges-for-alleged-722-million-crypto-ponzi-scheme>.

²⁵ See Olivier Acuna, CoinDesk, *Americans’ Losses to Crypto Scams Rose to Over \$11 Billion Last Year, FBI Reports*, <https://www.coindesk.com/business/2026/04/07/americans-losses-to-crypto-scams-rose-to-over-usd11-billion-last-year-fbi-reports>.

²⁶ See Ayden Runnels, Texas Tribune, *What to Know as Cryptocurrency Scams Rise in Texas* (July 8, 2026), <https://www.texastribune.org/2026/07/08/texas-crypto-scam-how-to-spot-bitcoin-fraud/>.

²⁷ See Kevin Collier, NBC News, *Scams Could Now Cost Americans \$119 Billion a Year, Study Finds* (Mar. 11, 2026), <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/security/scam-cost-price-money-crypto-what-to-do-help-rcna262722>.

²⁸ See Rob Wile, NBC News, *Trump’s Financial Disclosure Lists \$1.4 Billion in Crypto Earnings, Powered Largely by Meme Coins* (June 30, 2026), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/financial-disclosure-1-billion-cryptocurrency-earnings-meme-coins-rcna352497>.

²⁹ See, e.g., Suzanne Monyak, Bloomberg Law, *DOJ’s No. 2 Official Asks Lawyers to Join ‘War’ Against Judges* (Nov. 7, 2025), <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/us-law-week/dojs-no-2-official-asks-lawyers-to-join-war-against-judges>.

³⁰ See, e.g., Breanne Deppisch, Fox News, *Ex-Judges Blast Top Trump DOJ Official for Declaring ‘War’ on Courts* (Nov. 14, 2025), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/ex-judges-blast-top-trump-doj-official-declaring-war-courts>.

2020 election was stolen. He recently told Fox News: “There’s a ton of evidence that the election was rigged.”³¹ Although no support for this claim has emerged six years after the election, Mr. Blanche’s DOJ continues to divert tremendous amounts of government resources to substantiating this unfounded theory. Earlier this month, hundreds of FBI analysts were reassigned to a “priority investigation” in Georgia related to sowing doubts about the results of the 2020 election.³²

Enough is enough. We need an Attorney General who will move us forward as a country—not waste our time and money relitigating outdated and debunked conspiracy theories of the past.

Mr. Blanche misrepresented his intentions to this Committee and misled another Senate Committee.

During his first confirmation process, Mr. Blanche offered assurances to Members of this Committee. In multiple instances, these assurances have been proven false. For example, Mr. Blanche testified that career employees who worked on cases involving Donald Trump “should have no fear of losing their jobs.” He vowed that “no agent or prosecutor will lose their job if they simply followed assigned duties.”³³ But once confirmed, Mr. Blanche made sure every single one of these career public servants was ousted. In March, he proudly announced: “There is not a single man or woman at the Department of Justice who had anything to do with those prosecutions.” Mr. Blanche boasted that he “cleaned house” at DOJ and FBI, removing over 200 attorneys and agents assigned to investigations involving Donald Trump.³⁴

When asked directly by this Committee whether he supported the pardons of the January 6 defendants who attacked police officers, Mr. Blanche testified that anyone who does violence to police officers “should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.” Yet post-confirmation, he boasted about pardons of these same people to a crowd at CPAC. He stated, to enthusiastic applause: “If you look at what happened to the men and women convicted because of January 6th, by 5pm on January 20th, every single one of them was either pardoned or had their sentence commuted.”³⁵ Mr. Blanche has also refused to rule out the possibility that people who harmed police officers on January 6th could receive payments from the Department’s \$1.776 “anti-

³¹ See Devlin Barrett, N.Y. Times, *Justice Dept. Pushes Limits of Its Power Over State Elections* (June 11, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/06/11/us/politics/trump-california-vote-elections-investigations.html>.

³² See Jennifer Jacobs & Sarah Lynch, CBS News, *FBI Orders Field Offices to Send Analysts to Atlanta for 2020 Election Investigation, Sources Say* (July 2, 2026), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/fbi-orders-field-offices-analysts-atlanta-election-investigation/>.

³³ See Questions for the Record, https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-02-12_-_qfr_responses_-_blanche.pdf.

³⁴ See Rebecca Beitsch, The Hill, *Blanche Boasts of Having ‘Cleaned House’ at DOJ, FBI Following Trump Prosecutions* (Mar. 26, 2026), <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/5802553-todd-blanche-cpac-doj-fbi-firings/>.

³⁵ See https://x.com/alex_mallin/status/2037348023219479005.

weaponization settlement fund.” He defended this position by saying falsely: “People that hurt police get money all the time.”³⁶ In April, Mr. Blanche’s prosecutors moved to dismiss the cases against the January 6 defendants convicted of seditious conspiracy—whose sentences were commuted but not pardoned by President Trump—“in the interests of justice.” A federal judge reluctantly granted the motion earlier this month, effectively erasing the last shreds of accountability for the attack on the Capitol.

Mr. Blanche also promised this Committee that the Department would not pursue any politically motivated investigations under his leadership. (*Sen. Tillis: I’ve got your commitment there will not even be a whiff of an investigation that appears to have a political motivation to it? Mr. Blanche: I commit to that.*)³⁷ Yet he did not promptly shut down the Department’s baseless investigation of Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell; he removed the senior prosecutor investigating former CIA Director John Brennan after she recommended against bringing charges³⁸; and he has presided over a seemingly endless series of dubious investigations of enemies of the President.

Moreover, a federal judge this week found that Mr. Blanche misled Congress about the Department’s settlement of President Trump’s IRS lawsuit. Referencing Mr. Blanche’s testimony before the Senate Appropriations Committee in May, she determined that DOJ “offered misleading explanations of the facts and the law.”³⁹ The court elaborated:

The Court is extremely troubled by the testimony given by Acting Attorney General Blanche on May 19, 2026. In response to why the “settlement agreement” had not been submitted to this Court for review, he stated that “there is no judge” because the case had been dismissed and, therefore, there was “no mechanism” for reviewing the agreement. ***While temporally accurate, this answer is, at best, misleading and, at worst, disingenuous.*** The Court was available to review any pleading by any Party at any time during this lawsuit. And if Acting Attorney General Blanche had thought the dismissal was improvidently granted or thought Plaintiffs misspoke when they said, “no judicial analysis is appropriate,” he only had to file an appearance and ask for relief.⁴⁰

³⁶ See <https://x.com/PaulaReidCNN/status/2057475965945585698?s=20> (video interview with CNN).

³⁷ See Ben Wieder, LA Times, *Trump Attorney General Pick Todd Blanche Could Face Confirmation Challenges* (June 4, 2026), <https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2026-06-04/trump-attorney-general-pick-todd-blanche-faces-confirmation-challenges>.

³⁸ See Sarah Lynch & Dan Klaidman, CBS News, *Lead Prosecutor on Probe into Ex-CIA Director John Brennan Is Removed from Case, Sources Say* (Apr. 17, 2026), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/lead-prosecutor-investigating-john-brennan-ex-cia-director-probe-removed-from-case/>.

³⁹ Order, *Trump v. IRS*, Case No. 26-cv-20609 (S.D. Fla. July 13, 2026), Dkt. No. 106, at 7-8, 51, available at <https://www.courtlistener.com/docket/72207870/106/trump-v-internal-revenue-service/>.

⁴⁰ *Id.* at 29 n.38 (emphasis added; citations omitted).

These issues should alarm Americans across the political spectrum.

These are not partisan concerns. Americans across the political spectrum rely on DOJ to deliver equal and impartial justice, and to keep us all safe and free. Mr. Blanche has demonstrated that he is willing to put all of that at risk to serve a political agenda. I urge the Members of this Committee to think about what this is costing our country. Confirming Mr. Blanche as Attorney General would be an endorsement of the corruption and politicization of the Justice Department and the dangerous consequences that come with it.