

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

June 10, 2025

The Honorable Pam Bondi
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Kash Patel
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Attorney General Bondi and Director Patel:

On May 6, I sent you a letter asking that you immediately investigate threats against federal judges in the form of anonymous or pseudonymous deliveries to their homes and those of their relatives.¹ I also asked that you provide information on any steps the Justice Department (DOJ) or the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has taken to protect the judges and their families who have received these deliveries and to prevent further deliveries and other threats. In addition, I asked you to commit to fully supporting the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) and to maintaining or increasing its current number of employees. Finally, I asked you to respond to several questions and provide a briefing to Senate Judiciary Committee staff no later than May 20.

Over a month has passed since my letter, and I have yet to receive any response. Your delay makes clear that you are not concerned with the ongoing and increasing threats to our federal judges. The federal judiciary cannot afford to wait any longer for action. Since I last wrote to you, threats against the federal judiciary have continued, and additional information about those threats has become public. Recent reporting revealed that USMS investigated 373 threats to judges in the first eight months of this fiscal year.² And the threats are increasing. In the five-month period before March 1, 80 individual judges received threats.³ Then, in the six weeks between March 1 and April 14, 162 judges received threats.⁴ USMS is also reportedly reviewing more than 100 anonymous deliveries to judges and their families.⁵

Justice Amy Coney Barrett's family has reportedly received unsolicited pizza deliveries, and Justice Barrett's sister was the target of a bomb threat.⁶ At least 20 anonymous deliveries have been placed in the name of Daniel Anderl, the son of Judge Esther Salas who was murdered

¹ Letter from the Honorable Richard J. Durbin, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on the Judiciary, to the Honorable Pam Bondi, Attorney General, U.S. Dept. of Just. & the Honorable Kash Patel, Director, Fed. Bureau of Investigation (May 6, 2025), <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/press/dem/releases/durbin-urges-ag-bondi-fbi-director-patel-to-investigate-threats-against-federal-judges-as-they-continue-to-receive-anonymous-deliveries-as-an-intimidation-tactic>.

² Derek Hawkins, *Sharp spike in threats to judges prompts calls for more security*, WASH. POST (May 29, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/05/30/judges-courthouses-threats-security-trump/>.

³ Mattathias Schwartz, *Marshals' Data Shows Spike in Threats Against Federal Judges*, N.Y. TIMES (May 27, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/27/us/politics/federal-judges-threats.html>.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Hawkins, *supra* note 2.

⁶ Ned Parker et al., *These judges ruled against Trump. Then their families came under attack.*, REUTERS (May 2, 2025), <https://www.reuters.com/investigations/these-judges-ruled-against-trump-then-their-families-came-under-attack-2025-05-02/>.

by an aggrieved litigant.⁷ Deliveries under Anderl's name have been received by judges in Rhode Island, New York, California, Tennessee, South Carolina, Maryland, Oregon, and Washington, D.C.⁸ Judge Salas has characterized the deliveries as "psychological warfare" sending the message, "Do you want to end up like Judge Salas? Do you want to end up like Daniel?"⁹

As I noted in my May 6 letter, these incidents threaten not only judges and their families, but also judicial independence and the rule of law. Threats against judges cannot be tolerated and must be investigated—and those responsible for these threats must be held accountable. I expect your prompt response to this pressing matter.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary

⁷ Hawkins, *supra* note 2.

⁸ Derek Hawkins, *Fake pizza orders sent to judges seen as threat to judicial safety*, WASH. POST (May 11, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/05/11/justice-judges-threats-intimidation-pizza-deliveries/>.

⁹ *Id.*