



July 14, 2026

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Washington, D.C.
Virginia
Florida
Arizona
New York
Tennessee
Utah
holtzmanvogel.com

Re: Support for the Nomination of Todd Blanche to Serve as Attorney General of the United States

Dear Chairman Grassley, Ranking Member Durbin, and Members of the Committee:

I write in strong support of the nomination of Todd Blanche to serve as Attorney General of the United States.

I had the privilege of serving Todd in two distinct capacities. First, I served as his sherpa during the Senate's consideration of his nomination to be Deputy Attorney General. Later, I served as his Chief of Staff at the Department of Justice. Those experiences gave me a perspective that very few people possess: I saw how Senators evaluated Todd before he entered office, and I later watched him lead the Department from inside the room.

Based on those experiences, I can say without hesitation that Todd possesses the judgment, integrity, temperament, and leadership necessary to serve as Attorney General.

I recognize that the Committee received a letter organized by Justice Connection opposing Todd's nomination. I respectfully submit that the Committee should carefully consider the weight to that submission deserves.

Many signatories have not served at the Department in years. Some are now outspoken political opponents of President Trump. Others were personally involved in the very investigations and prosecutorial decisions that contributed to the weaponization of the Justice Department in the prior Administration. Their opposition should be understood in that context and not treated as neutral or as firsthand evidence of Todd's leadership.

The relevant question is not how many former employees signed a letter. It is how many actually worked with Todd, attended the meetings he led, observed his interactions with career attorneys



and agents, saw how he reviewed the difficult matters before him, or witnessed how he made decisions.

I did.

As his Chief of Staff, I worked beside Todd every day. I participated in meetings involving public safety, national security, Department management, congressional oversight, and difficult questions of law and policy. Those meetings often involved competing recommendations, incomplete facts, and no easy answers.

One characteristic consistently distinguished Todd's leadership. He insisted that decisions begin with the law and the facts, not with a desired outcome. He expected attorneys to identify the strongest arguments on both sides, explain the legal and operational risks, and challenge one another's assumptions. He welcomed disagreement because he believed better decisions resulted from rigorous discussion rather than unquestioning consensus.

At the same time, Todd understood that consultation cannot become an excuse for indecision. Once he believed the issues had been fully vetted, he made the decision and accepted responsibility for it.

I also observed how Todd worked with the Department's career professionals. Contrary to the picture painted by some of his critics, Todd respected the expertise and institutional knowledge of career attorneys, agents, and staff. He sought their advice, relied on their experience, and expected them to speak candidly. He also understood that political leadership has a distinct responsibility. Career employees provide indispensable expertise. Senate-confirmed leadership must ultimately make the decisions and answer for them.

Todd understood that balance because he had lived both roles. He began his Justice Department career as a paralegal, later became an Assistant United States Attorney, and then supervised prosecutors in the Southern District of New York. Ultimately, he became one of the country's leading criminal defense attorneys. Few nominees have experienced the justice system from both the government's perspective and the defense table. That breadth of experience informed every important decision I watched him make.

The Attorney General oversees an institution entrusted with extraordinary authority. The Department can investigate citizens, seek warrants, bring criminal charges, seize property, and deprive people of liberty. Those powers demand more than legal intelligence. They require sound judgment, intellectual honesty, respect for constitutional limits, and the discipline to exercise federal authority responsibly. Todd demonstrated those qualities every day.

As Deputy Attorney General, he directed the Department's day-to-day operations and supervised its components. As Acting Attorney General, he now leads the Department itself. The Committee therefore need not speculate about whether Todd Blanche can perform the job of Attorney General. It can evaluate the record he has already established.



One final experience stands out to me. During Todd's confirmation process for Deputy Attorney General, I accompanied him to meetings with Senators from both parties. Behind closed doors and away from the cameras, Democratic Senators, including some who serve on this very Committee, told Todd he was uniquely qualified for the position and praised his judgment, experience, and temperament. However, when the confirmation vote occurred, not one Democratic Senator supported him.

That contrast is impossible to ignore. Privately, his qualifications were acknowledged. Publicly, politics intervened.

The Senate now has the opportunity to evaluate Todd not simply on the qualifications that were privately recognized, but on the leadership record he has built since then.

I had the privilege of standing beside Todd during his confirmation process and later serving as his Chief of Staff as he helped lead the Department through some of its most consequential moments. Based on that firsthand experience, I can say without reservation that Todd Blanche possesses the judgment, integrity, temperament, and leadership the office of Attorney General demands.

I respectfully urge the Committee to report his nomination favorably to the full Senate.

Respectfully,

Brian D. Nieves

Partner, Holtzman Vogel

Principal, Vogel Group

Former Chief of Staff to Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche