

Hon. Chuck Grassley
Hon. Dick Durbin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

We are four former Chiefs of Staff of the Department of Justice who served during the attorneys generalship of three attorneys general over three presidential administrations. We have seen firsthand how the Office of the Attorney General operates and how it oversees the Department. We can tell you firsthand that Todd Blanche is well qualified for the role and has the personal qualities that all Americans should look for in an attorney general.

The Attorney General of the United States is, after the President, the top law enforcement official in America. The person who occupies that role sets policies and priorities for federal law enforcement, as well as setting the tone for law enforcement nationwide.

President Trump has made an excellent choice for Attorney General in nominating Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche, who currently serves as Acting Attorney General. It is time for the Senate to move his nomination to the floor quickly and confirm the nomination with a strong majority.

Acting AG Blanche has a distinguished record as a prosecutor in America's most prestigious U.S. Attorney's Office, the Southern District of New York. Blanche served in the violent crime division for eight years, rising to become its co-chief and leading a major branch office. He then became a partner at a prominent law firm, where he distinguished himself in a series of high-profile, high-stakes cases. These wins brought him to the attention of President Trump, who trusted him and relied upon him as his own defense attorney. Blanche has shown himself in both public service and private practice to be smart, principled, and absolutely fearless. And last year, Blanche left a lucrative job as a law firm partner to serve our country ably first as Deputy Attorney General and now as Acting Attorney General.

Under his leadership, violent crime has fallen dramatically and hit record lows. Property crime is also down, as is cartel activity. The Department has also earned a strong win-loss record at the Supreme Court. In short, the Department of Justice is fulfilling its purpose and benefiting all Americans. Senators must confirm him so that he can continue this important work.

Critics have argued that Blanche is too close to the President, or objected to Blanche's having previously served as President Trump's personal attorney. But these objections are utterly baseless. Presidential appointments are about trust, and so it is no surprise that Presidents have previously appointed confidants, close friends, and yes, even their personal attorneys, to the role of attorney general. And Todd Blanche has earned the trust of the President of the United States by delivering results in the court room.

Blanche's closeness to the President is not a liability but a benefit. The Attorney General of the United States serves at the pleasure of the President, and is tasked with implementing the priorities that the American people voted for. This is consistent with our Constitution and with democracy itself, allowing the American people to have a voice in matters of law enforcement.

By any standard, Acting AG Blanche is an outstanding lawyer who has won high-stakes cases as both a prosecutor and a private defense attorney. He has experience running the Department, and he is closely aligned with the President's priorities.

Appointing an Attorney General is one of the most important personnel decisions that a President has to make. President Trump got this choice exactly right. The Senate should confirm Acting AG Blanche right away and give him a strong vote of confidence he deserves.

Sincerely,

Ted Ulyot

Bush Administration
DOJ Chief of Staff 2005

Kevin O'Connor

Bush Administration
DOJ Chief of Staff 2007

Will Levi

Trump Administration
DOJ Chief of Staff 2020

Chad Mizelle

Trump Administration
DOJ Chief of Staff 2025