

# LAWYERS DEFENDING AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

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## **Distinguished Attorneys Slam the President’s Firing of Inspector General Atkinson; Call his Actions “Indefensible”**

BOSTON – The Steering Committee of Lawyers Defending American Democracy (LDAD), today released an Open Letter to President Donald Trump calling his firing of Inspector General Atkinson “indefensible.”

“Mr. Atkinson’s firing should signal to the legal community throughout the nation that the rule of law is in grave danger,” the Letter states. “[F]or it was no ordinary firing of a Presidential appointee with whom a President has become dissatisfied. Instead, the President fired Atkinson for doing precisely what the law required him to do.”

Signers of this Letter include:

- **Fernande (Nan) R.V. Duffly** – Former Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court
- **James F. McHugh** – Former Associate Justice, Massachusetts Appeals Court
- **Stanley Marcuss** – Former Counsel to the U.S. Senate’s International Finance Subcommittee; former Senior Deputy Assistant Secretary in the U.S. Commerce Department; former partner, Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy; former Senior Fellow at Harvard’s Kennedy School; retired partner, Bryan Cave Leighton
- **Gershon M. (Gary) Ratner** – Founder and Executive Director, Citizens for Effective Schools; former Associate General Counsel for Litigation, U.S. Dep’t of Housing & Urban Development; former Deputy Executive Secretary, U.S. Dep’t of Health, Education & Welfare
- **Lois Schiffer** – Former Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division, US Department of Justice and former General Counsel, NOAA
- **Lisa Weissler** – Retired Assistant Attorney General of Alaska

LDAD formed in late 2018. Since then, it has authored a series of Open Letters and Statements speaking out against threats to our democracy, in support of the rule of law, and demanding President Trump, Attorney General Barr, and the Senate honor the fundamental principles, norms and values of our democratic institutions. These efforts earned the support of over 1,400 lawyers, from across the country and political spectrum, including many distinguished judges, legal scholars and attorneys in government or private practice.

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