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# LAWYERS DEFENDING AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **BREAKING: Ethics Complaint Filed Against Trump Attorney John Eastman**

WASHINGTON DC - Today, Lawyers Defending American Democracy (LDAD) filed an [ethics complaint against John Eastman](#), an attorney for Donald Trump, who assisted in efforts to reverse the results of the 2020 presidential election. More than 1,300 signers in nearly all 50 states and the District of Columbia have signed in support of the complaint, which asks the State Bar of California to investigate and, if appropriate, sanction Mr. Eastman for violations of the California Rules of Professional Conduct.

Harvard Law School professor **Laurence Tribe**, Dean **Erwin Chemerinsky** of UC Berkeley School of Law, and past Presidents of the American Bar Association **Martha W. Barnett** and **Robert E. Hirshon** joined dozens of retired federal and state judges, former Department of Justice prosecutors and officials, former state Attorneys General, past presidents of state and local bar associations, and current and retired law professors from law schools around the country in signing the complaint.

The complaint against Mr. Eastman follows previous ethics complaints LDAD has lodged against former New York City Mayor [Rudolph Giuliani](#), former Attorney General [William Barr](#), Texas Attorney General [Kenneth Paxton](#), and Former Assistant Attorney General [Jeffrey Clark](#) for legal ethics violations.

At issue is Mr. Eastman's participation, alongside Rudolph Giuliani and former Department of Justice lawyer Jeffrey C. Clark, in post-election efforts to install Mr. Trump in the office of President of the United States, notwithstanding the irrefutable fact that he lost his re-election campaign. Today's complaint argues that this conduct by Mr. Eastman is an "aggravating circumstance" under California ethics rules that bears on both the decision whether to conduct an investigation and the severity of any eventual sanction. The complaint follows and supports the earlier complaint initially filed in October by States United Democracy Center.

**Scott Harshbarger**, co-founder of LDAD stated:

"As the details emerge on the efforts to reverse the results of the 2020 election, the central role played by lawyers at each stage becomes clear. The actions by lawyers such as John Eastman, Rudy Giuliani, and Jeffrey Clark plainly appear to have violated the rules of ethics, and it is imperative that our bar disciplinary authorities investigate and hold them accountable after a thorough review of the facts and the applicable law."

**James McHugh**, a principal author of the complaint, and a former Massachusetts Appeals Court Judge, adds:

“Mr. Eastman’s legal advice and assertions of election fraud had no basis in fact or law and were intended to perpetuate the presidency of the losing candidate in the election against the will of the voters. After investigation, if the allegations in this complaint are validated, Mr. Eastman should be suspended from the practice of law or be permanently disbarred.”

**About Lawyers Defending American Democracy**

Founded in 2019, Lawyers Defending American Democracy (LDAD) is a 501(c)(4) organization (application pending), dedicated to fostering adherence to the rule of law. LDAD has issued a variety of Open Letters and statements calling for adherence by public officials to the rule of law and encouraging fellow lawyers, the leaders of bar associations, and the legal academy to join in speaking out against threats to the rule of law. *All letters, statements and briefs are available at [www.LDAD.org](http://www.LDAD.org).*

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