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# LAWYERS DEFENDING AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

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## Prominent Lawyer Group Challenges Legal Profession to Pledge Action Against Anti-Democratic Forces

BOSTON – As the assault on our democratic institutions continues, one year after the attack on the Capitol, [Lawyers Defending American Democracy](#) (LDAD) has issued a challenge to America’s lawyers to actively resist what the [2021 Global State of Democracy Report](#) states is a “gradual but significant weakening of [our nation’s] checks on government and civil liberties.”

[The Democracy Commitment](#) was created by LDAD in response to the legal profession’s failure to speak out against efforts to undermine our democracy, including the right to a free election overseen by impartial officials. This Commitment asks lawyers throughout the country, including in law firms, corporate law departments, law schools, and bar associations at the national, state, regional, and local level, to use their considerable knowledge and community influence to lead efforts to protect such fundamental principles as:

- Civil discourse and robust debate
- The repudiation of threats, intimidation, or violence
- The right to a free and fair election safely administered by impartial officials
- Equal and unfettered access to the polls in order to exercise the right to vote

**Harvard Law School Professor Laurence H. Tribe** who is also a signer of the Democracy Commitment, states:

"Our democracy is in grave peril. America is at greater risk of backsliding into despotism than it was a year ago, as forces hostile to democracy are successfully implementing laws to undermine future elections. The legal profession has a special obligation to use its considerable influence and expertise to protect the rule of law and our democratic institutions that are now under assault. LDAD’s Democracy Commitment is a blueprint for ways lawyers can and must do more."

In its announcement, LDAD committed to the development of program ideas, toolkits, curricula, and other ways to ensure that the legal profession speaks with a more powerful voice on behalf of our democratic institutions. Through the groundbreaking Democracy Commitment, LDAD urges lawyers to stand for the principle that the defense of democracy is not partisan. Indeed, it is

the obligation of all lawyers to convince doubters that the defense of democracy at this time is a fundamentally patriotic act. Lawyers can and must do better.

LDAD was founded in 2019 to galvanize lawyers to defend the rule of law and to hold unscrupulous lawyers to account. Over the past ten months, it has filed multiple ethics complaints seeking disciplinary action against lawyers, including Sydney Powell, former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, former Attorney General William Barr, Texas Attorney General Warren Kenneth Paxton Jr., former Assistant Attorney General Jeffrey Clark and former Trump attorney John Eastman. These actions have helped encourage disciplinary action, garnered support from over 12,000 lawyers nationwide, and earned the organization national media coverage.

### **About Lawyers Defending American Democracy**

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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