



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 11, 2022

Ethics Complaint Filed Against Attorney Kenneth Chesebro for “Fraudulent and Deceitful Conduct” in Fake Elector Scandal

NEW YORK, NY - [Lawyers Defending American Democracy](#) (LDAD) today filed an [ethics complaint](#) in New York against Kenneth J. Chesebro for his conduct while acting as an attorney for President Donald J. Trump following the 2020 presidential election.

The complaint was signed by legal luminaries throughout the profession, including past presidents of the American Bar Association, the New York State Bar Association, the NY City Bar Association, and County Bar Associations throughout the state. In addition, signers include leading law professors and other national experts in legal ethics and constitutional law. See [Attachment](#), below (in formation).

The complaint alleges that Mr. Chesebro is the mastermind behind key aspects of the fake elector scheme to overturn the results of the election during the count of electoral votes in Congress on January 6, 2021. He was the first member of the Trump team to advance the theory that Vice President Pence had the sole authority to recognize and count the fake elector votes from multiple states.

He then acted in concert with other attorneys, notably John C. Eastman and Rudolph W. Giuliani, to implement this illegal scheme to overturn the 2020 presidential election in President Trump’s favor. The complaint states: “Although Mr. Chesebro did not succeed in his ultimate objective, the lies that he and his confreres perpetrated have undermined public faith in our elections and caused incalculable damage to our democratic values and institutions.”

Thanks in part to ethics complaints filed previously by LDAD, [Mr. Eastman](#) and [Mr. Giuliani](#) are already subject to ethics investigations and disciplinary proceedings for their roles in this endeavor. Today’s complaint asserts that Mr. Chesebro’s efforts to subvert our democracy by preventing the proper certification of Mr. Biden’s victory “plainly merit an investigation by the Grievance Committee.”

The complaint’s authors believe that an investigation will show that Mr. Chesebro violated Rule 8.4(c) and 8.4(h) of the New York Rules of Professional Conduct prohibiting conduct that is deceptive or fraudulent or that reflects on a lawyer’s fitness to practice law.

John Montgomery, an LDAD Board member who co-authored the complaint, stated that, “The available facts shows that Mr. Chesebro abandoned his role as a legal advisor to become an active participant in the scheme to overturn the results of the election. As the Appellate Division concluded in the case of Mr. Giuliani, such conduct by any lawyer should be investigated by the Grievance Committee to maintain public confidence in our profession.”

Ellen Yaroshefsky, a professor of legal ethics at Hofstra University’s Maurice A. Deane School of Law, and a signer of the complaint, stated that, “The effort to overturn the 2020 election severely harmed our democracy and led to the January 6 attack on our Capitol that caused severe injuries and death. It is distressing that so many lawyers abandoned their ethical obligations and participated in this dangerous plan. Our profession must investigate and hold them accountable.”

For more information, contact John Montgomery at john.montgomery@ropesgray.com and (617) 281-1100.

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ATTACHMENT

Scott Harshbarger, Chairman
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Additional Prominent Signers

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Founder and retired Executive Director, Insure the Uninsured Project; LDAD Board Member

** The signatories have signed solely in their individual capacities and do not do so on behalf of any organization or other affiliation