



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**National Lawyers' Group Files Ethics Complaint Against
Cassidy Hutchinson's Attorney Stefan C. Passantino**

BOSTON — [Lawyers Defending American Democracy](#) has filed a detailed [ethics complaint seeking the disbarment of Stefan C. Passantino](#), the lawyer initially representing key witness **Cassidy Hutchinson** before the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6 Attack on the United States Capitol. Prominent DC lawyers have joined as signers to this complaint.

Prior to his representation of Ms. Hutchinson, Attorney Passantino served as a member of former president Donald J. Trump's Office of White House Counsel, including as his ethics advisor. The 18-page complaint meticulously sets forth the evidence against Attorney Passantino that demonstrates how he failed in his duty to represent his client, and instead protected the best interests of the former President. In doing so, Attorney Passantino interfered with the Committee's efforts to unearth the facts behind the January 6 attack on the Capitol.

James McHugh, a principal author of the complaint and former MA Appeals Court judge, stated, "Attorney Passantino repeatedly directed Ms. Hutchinson to not be forthcoming to the January 6 Committee. He continually exploited the power imbalance in his representation of a young witness, who was gravely concerned about exposing herself to criminal liability for perjury, by reassuring her that she was doing the right thing and offering false hope that he would help find her a job. As a former ethics counsel, Attorney Passantino's wrongdoing is particularly egregious."

LDAD Board member and former American Bar Association president Martha Barnett noted, "Attorney Passantino tried to keep a pivotal witness from providing credible information to a governmental body investigating one of the most consequential events in our Nation's history. His attempt to interfere with the administration of justice in the ways that he did undermine the carefully crafted rules guiding the attorney-client relationship and even cross lines into possibly criminal behavior."

As the complaint states: "It is a testament to Ms. Hutchinson's character that she overcame Passantino's pervasive misconduct and testified truthfully, becoming perhaps the key witness before the Committee. Her service to the interests of American democracy and the rule of law cannot be overstated. At the same time, Attorney Passantino's efforts to obstruct and interfere

with her contribution to the legislative and historical record cannot be rationalized, dismissed, or ignored if our professional code of ethics is to serve its critical purposes."

LDAD is filing its complaint with the disciplinary authorities in Georgia and New York where Mr. Passantino is also a member of the bar.

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About Lawyers Defending American Democracy

Founded in 2019, Lawyers Defending American Democracy (LDAD) is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to fostering adherence to the protection of the Constitution and 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, leaders of bar associations, and the legal academy to join in speaking out against threats to democracy. LDAD has also filed disciplinary complaints against lawyers who have violated their oath to protect the Constitution, for example, William P. Barr, Rudolph Giuliani, Jeffery Clark, Kenneth Paxton, and John Eastman. All letters, statements and briefs are available at <https://ldad.org/>.