

LAWYERS DEFENDING AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

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LAWYERS DEFENDING AMERICAN DEMOCRACY FILES AN AMICUS BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF THE LAW FIRM OF PERKINS COIE LLP AND THE FUNDAMENTAL INDEPENDENCE OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION

BOSTON, MA - Lawyers Defending American Democracy has [filed an amicus brief](#) in support of Perkins Coie LLP in its response to a sweeping executive order issued by the President of the United States against the law firm. At its core, the presidential order against Perkins is a draconian effort to prevent the firm from representing clients the President does not like and taking positions that are contrary to his views.

Gary Ratner, a board member and co-founder of LDAD stated, “The President’s executive order represents a significant and unprecedented effort to undermine the independence of the legal profession. In doing so, it interferes with the duty of lawyers to represent clients without interference and places all of the firm’s lawyers in ethical jeopardy by possibly having to limit issues they can raise in court to avoid the risk of future punishment from the President.”

This order is part of a sweeping effort by the President to create widespread fear that could upend fundamental tenets of the legal profession, including the right of all clients to choose their attorney and to be zealously represented. In addition, as Georgetown University Law Center Professor Mitt Regan, a co-author of the brief, noted, “The executive order represents an attempt by the President to usurp the judicial branch’s authority to regulate lawyer conduct, with the goal of limiting the ability of lawyers to represent clients who seek to hold the executive accountable under the law.”

As argued in LDAD’s brief, the President’s actions pose a profound threat to the rule of law by attempting to limit the number of lawyers available to represent clients who challenge the administration or who face criminal prosecution by the administration. By creating an “enemies list” of law firms, the order seeks “to limit the legal accountability of the President through intimidation of the legal profession.”

About Lawyers Defending American Democracy

Founded in 2019, Lawyers Defending American Democracy (LDAD) is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the protection of the rule of law, democracy, and the Constitution. LDAD regularly authors Calls-to-Action, research reports, amicus briefs, and articles calling for adherence to the rule of law and encourages the legal profession and the public to join in speaking out against threats to the norms, freedoms and principles of our democratic institutions and the rule of law. For further information about LDAD, see <https://ldad.org/>.