
LAWYERS DEFENDING AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

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Ethics Complaint Filed Against Pam Bondi Alleges Pattern of Serious Misconduct and Widespread Violations of Duties as Attorney General

Complaint documents repeated ethical violations, political weaponization of the Department of Justice, and other conduct that warrants disciplinary investigation

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A comprehensive [ethics complaint](#) filed today against former Attorney General Pamela Bondi reveals her longstanding pattern of misconduct, threatening the rule of law and administration of justice. According to the complaint filed by Peggy A. Quince, retired Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court, and joined by Democracy Defenders Fund, Lawyers Defending American Democracy, Lawyers for the Rule of Law and over 100 scholars and retired judges, Bondi’s actions violated the Florida Rules of Professional Conduct and fostered an environment of lawlessness inside the Department of Justice.

The complaint, submitted to the Florida Bar, documents the myriad of ways that Bondi violated professional responsibility standards through her conduct and decision-making as attorney general.

As attorney general, Bondi committed the following violations, as described in the complaint:

- Under her leadership, Bondi created an environment in which DOJ lawyers were induced to engage in acts they were ethically prohibited from doing, under threat of suspension or termination—or were fired for not doing so.
- Bondi, and her subordinates, repeatedly denied the constitutional rights of Americans by seeking to bring charges against defendants without probable cause.
- Bondi also violated her statutory obligations under the Epstein Files Transparency Act, misleading the public and releasing sensitive victim information.
- Bondi permitted and incentivized violations of court orders in dozens of cases.

LDAD Board member Peggy Quince and the former Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court stated, "As the former Chief Justice of this state's highest court, there are key principles that we must protect. First, whatever legal position you have achieved, you are still bound to follow the Rules of Professional Conduct. All lawyers are alike in that regard, and no one lawyer is above the law. Second, The Florida Bar and the Florida Supreme Court have a duty to ensure that lawyers adhere to all applicable rules. That should be the baseline minimum for this profession."

"The attorney general has the awesome responsibility to set a national example of ethical behavior—and to ensure that DOJ lawyers live up to that standard," noted **LDAD volunteer and a principal author of the complaint, James W. Conrad, Jr.** "From her first day as attorney general, Bondi did just the opposite, personally and repeatedly violating ethical standards and coercing Department lawyers into violating their own professional responsibilities if they wanted to keep their jobs."

"It's past time for those in control of the behavior of attorneys to step up to their responsibilities and take the reins," said **Daniel N. Arshack, President at Lawyers for Rule of Law.** "Silence is complicity."

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“Bondi repeatedly ignored her ethical obligations,” said **Virginia Canter, chief counsel and director of anti-corruption and ethics at Democracy Defenders Fund**. “She was responsible for releasing sensitive information about Epstein victims, shielding documents in the Epstein files from the American public, violating court orders and charging citizens for crimes without probable cause. This warrants an investigation and action—lawyers have been disbarred for less.”

[Signatories of the complaint](#) are calling for an investigation and action to be taken by the Florida Bar.

Read the full brief [here](#).

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*[Lawyers Defending American Democracy \(LDAD\)](#) was founded in 2019 and is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the protection of the rule of law, the Constitution, and democracy. LDAD’s work includes authoring Calls-to-Action, amicus briefs, and articles calling for adherence to the rule of law and encouraging the legal profession and the public to join in speaking out against threats to the norms, freedoms, and principles of our democratic institutions. LDAD’s most recent initiative is *Meeting the Moment*, a call to lawyers across the country to engage with their communities in response to the attacks on our democratic institutions. For further information about LDAD, see <https://ldad.org/>*

[Democracy Defenders Fund](#) brings together a nonpartisan team to work with national, state and local allies across the country to defend in real-time the foundations of our democracy.

[Lawyers For the Rule of Law](#) has over 300 pro-bono lawyers who volunteer to protect our democracy by preparing lawsuits, amicus briefs and ethics complaints against government lawyers who violate their oaths. We represent individuals who are wrongfully targeted by this administration and file habeas petitions for those wrongfully detained.