

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
WEST PALM BEACH DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

**Case No. 23-80101-CR
CANNON/REINHART**

vs.

DONALD J. TRUMP,
WALTINE NAUTA, and
CARLOS DE OLIVEIRA,

Defendants.

DEFENDANTS' MOTIONS TO COMPEL DISCOVERY

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INTRODUCTION

President Donald J. Trump respectfully submits this memorandum, and the accompanying Classified Supplement, in support of Defendants' motions for an order regarding the scope of the prosecution team and to compel the Special Counsel's Office to produce certain discoverable materials.¹

The Special Counsel's Office has disregarded basic discovery obligations and DOJ policies in an effort to support the Biden Administration's egregious efforts to weaponize the criminal justice system in pursuit of an objective that President Biden cannot achieve on the campaign trail: slowing down President Trump's leading campaign in the 2024 presidential election. The patent absurdity of the Office's efforts is illustrated by the fact that, while working toward a historic landslide victory in the Iowa caucuses yesterday, President Trump was also preparing to bring to Your Honor's attention today the record of misrepresentations and discovery violations that have marred this case from the outset and illustrate that the Office has disregarded fundamental fairness and its legal obligations in favor of partisan election interference.

New evidence, obtained via requests pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), reveals that politically motivated operatives in the Biden Administration and the National Archives and Records Administration ("NARA") began this crusade against President Trump in 2021. There are 22 FOIA releases from DOJ and NARA attached as exhibits to this brief. Nearly all of these exhibits, though heavily redacted based on FOIA rules that have no application in a criminal case, represent discovery violations in which the Special Counsel's Office

¹ Pursuant to the Court's January 12, 2024 Order, Defendants President Trump, Waltine Nauta, and Carlos De Oliveira are submitting a single consolidated unclassified brief in support of these motions. *See* ECF No. 258. The combined numbers of pages in this unclassified brief and the Classified Supplement are well below the page counts allotted by the Court for this purpose.

failed to produce documents that support arguments and positions the defense has articulated since at least October 2023.

The FOIA releases, coupled with other evidence scattered throughout more than 1.2 million pages of discovery, reflect close participation in the investigation by NARA and Biden Administration components such as the White House Counsel's Office, as well as senior officials at DOJ and FBI. These revelations are disturbing but not surprising. The Biden Administration leaked to the *New York Times* in April 2022 President Biden's view that President Trump "should be prosecuted." The Attorney General then proudly announced in August 2022 that he took the extraordinary step of "personally" approving the raid at Mar-a-Lago. However, the details reflected in the FOIA releases add force to President Trump's long-held position regarding the scope of the prosecution team. Thus, these materials should have been disclosed by the Office, in unredacted form, at the outset of the case.

The parties' dispute regarding the scope of the prosecution team also extends to the Intelligence Community and the National Security Council. In this regard, the Special Counsel's Office would have the Court believe that the prosecutors have only dealt with these agencies at arms' length. Evidence relating to extensive coordination during the classification review process puts the lie to these claims. Equally telling, in submissions to Your Honor in August and September 2022, DOJ asserted in *Trump v. United States* that the Intelligence Community was "closely interconnected with," and "cannot readily be separated from," the investigation. Again, the Office's position is disturbing but not surprising. The prosecutors cannot escape those representations here.

These issues are central to the instant motion because the Special Counsel's Office is seeking to avert its eyes from exculpatory, discoverable evidence in the hands of the senior officials

at the White House, DOJ, and FBI who provided guidance and assistance as this lawless mission proceeded, and the agencies that supported the flawed investigation from its inception such as NARA, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (“ODNI”), and other politically-charged components of the Intelligence Community. As discussed below, even the Department of Energy has taken up the Biden Administration’s mantle by seeking in June 2023 to terminate President Trump’s active security clearance, which is a highly inconvenient fact relative to the Office’s allegation of “unauthorized” access to classified information under 18 U.S.C. § 739(e), and modifying and amending agency records that support President Trump’s defense.

No defendant is required to predict every form of exculpatory, discoverable evidence that exists. It is incumbent upon the Special Counsel’s Office to collect and produce such materials based on a fair, judicially enforced definition of the prosecution team. However, to be clear, the record discussed below strongly supports the existence of additional evidence of bias and political animus that is central to the defense of this case and must be produced promptly. This includes evidence of collusion between the Office and the White House, DOJ, FBI, and NARA to use the Presidential Records Act (“PRA”) as a law enforcement tool, and to abuse grand jury procedures, in violation of due process, other constitutional rights, and the executive privilege. The Office must produce other evidence of bias, including (1) any communications with members, relatives, or associates of the Biden Administration; (2) communications between members of the Biden Administration and the Fulton County District Attorney’s Office during the course of the investigation that led to this case, including but not limited to records relating to meetings involving Nathan Wade that are substantiated by legal invoices appended to congressional filings; and (3) evidence relating to analytic bias harbored by the Intelligence Community that President

Trump will use to impeach positions that are relevant to § 793(e)'s requirement relating “national defense” information, or “NDI,” as discussed below and in the Classified Supplement.

The essential premise of the Classified Supplement is that neither President Trump nor any other party to this action is required to accept the *ipse dixit* of the Special Counsel's Office or the biased Intelligence Community regarding the alleged sensitivities associated with the documents and information at issue in this case. The Office's own conduct belies these claims. For example, the Office has suggested that documents reflecting the timing and content of the President's Daily Brief (“PDB”) on a given day are among the Intelligence Community's crown jewels. *E.g.*, Superseding Indictment, ECF No. 85 ¶ 20; CIPA § 10 Notice at 2, 4. In fact, there are detailed descriptions of PDBs delivered to President Trump on the CIA's public website,² which are based on the same types of information—including directly attributed quotes—from the same witnesses that the Office speaks about in hushed tones and seeks to relegate to SCIFs.

Moreover, as explained in today's separate opposition to the Office's CIPA § 4 motion, prosecutors and witnesses repeatedly ignored the so-called “need to know” requirement during the investigation to share literal “war stories” that have no relevance to the issues in this case. The Court should not condone that behavior by permitting the Office to invoke the “need to know” requirement to withhold discoverable information from the defendants. Therefore, as discussed in the Classified Supplement, President Trump will continue to oppose *ex parte* proceedings under CIPA that serve as a fraught opportunity for the Office to push inaccurate and untested narratives about this case, and we will contest in pretrial motions and at trial meritless claims regarding NDI, classification status, the significance of portion marks, and other alleged sensitivities. The Special

² See, e.g., JOHN L. HELGERSON, GETTING TO KNOW THE PRESIDENT 242-43, 263-67 (4th ed. 2021), available at <https://www.cia.gov/static/Chapter-9-Getting-to-Know-the-President-Fourth-Edition.pdf>.

Counsel's Office must make additional disclosures—promised long ago—regarding these issues and the witnesses they will rely on at trial to try to substantiate their position.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth below, the Court should conduct fact-finding on any disputed facts relating to the scope of the prosecution team, enter an order resolving the parties' dispute on that issue, and order the Special Counsel's Office to produce the requested discovery.

BACKGROUND

I. Pre-Indictment Investigative Activities

A. Early Indications Of NARA Bias

Almost as soon as President Trump left office, NARA started to work with the White House Office of Records Management ("WH-ORM") on exaggerated claims related to records handling under the PRA. On May 5, 2021, less than five months after the end of President Trump's term, NARA General Counsel Gary Stern [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Ex. 1. Stern noted that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] *Id.* at USA-00383564. Stern's draft [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] *Id.* at USA-00383565 (emphasis added); *see also* Ex. 2 at USA-00813152 ([REDACTED])

[REDACTED]). However, in early June 2021, during ongoing good-faith efforts by President Trump's PRA representatives to address issues raised by NARA, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ex. 3 at USA-00383594.

In an August 30, 2021 email, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ex. 4 at USA-00359483. On September 1, 2021, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ex. 5; *see also* Ex. 2 at

USA-00813153 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]). Stern's email stated that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ex. 5 at USA-

00383606.

B. The Biden Administration Weaponizes The PRA

In late-September 2021, without disclosing that NARA had already drafted a referral letter and contacted DOJ, Deputy White House Counsel Jonathan Su [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. *See* Ex. 6 at USA-00383679. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]” *Id.* at USA-00383678. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] *Id.* [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] *Id.* at USA-00383677.

On October 5, 2021, Stern sent an internal email [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Ex. 7 at USA-

00383681. Stern's email attached a [REDACTED] which he proposed to [REDACTED]. *Id.* Three days later,

the Biden Administration [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. *See* Exs. 8, 9.³

C. The Transfer Of The 15 Boxes To NARA

On December 30, 2021, one of President Trump's PRA representatives notified NARA that, in response to NARA's requests, there were boxes available for pickup at Mar-a-Lago (the "15 Boxes"). NARA caused the 15 Boxes to be transported from Florida to Washington, D.C., on January 18, 2022. *See* Ex. 10. In response to an internal NARA email claiming that some of the materials contained classification markings, then-Deputy Archivist Deborah Steidel Wall

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. *Id.* at USA-00383792.

D. The White House Instructs NARA To Contact Prosecutors

In an effort to cover up evidence of biased participation in the investigation by the Biden Administration, the Special Counsel's Office has falsely claimed that NARA independently referred this matter to DOJ on February 9, 2022. *See, e.g.,* Superseding Indictment, ECF No. 85 ¶ 50 ("On February 9, 2022, NARA referred the discovery of classified documents in TRUMP's

³ Under the PRA, access to "presidential records" is restricted for several years after a president leaves office. *See* 44 U.S.C. § 2204. The PRA establishes exceptions to the restricted-access period, which can come in the form of "special access requests" from Congress or law enforcement. *See id.* § 2205(2). NARA provides notice of such requests to the impacted executive to allow the official to invoke any available "rights, defenses, or privileges," such as the executive privilege. *Id.*

boxes to the Department of Justice for investigation.”).⁴ However, the evidence demonstrates that

[REDACTED].

According to an FBI report, Stern and Jay Bosanko, also of NARA, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Ex. 2 at USA-00813156. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] *Id.* On January 24, 2022, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] *Id.*

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] *Id.* [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] *Id.*

E. NARA’s Sham “Referral”

On January 25, 2022— [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ex. 11. On the same day, NARA-OIG wrote to Thomas Monheim, the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, that “[o]ur agency just gave us a quick brief on what appears to be a very high level potential spillage and records management issue.” Ex. 12 at OIG000081 (FOIA).⁵ Three days later, in an apparent effort to paper the file, Stern sent NARA-OIG an email with the subject line “[i]ssue re Potential

⁴ *Accord* 9/12/23 Tr. at 13 (Court: “I do have a question. This case, the criminal investigation began when, Mr. Bratt?” // Bratt: “So the referral from NARA came in early February of 2022.”); ECF No. 48 at 5, *Trump v. United States*, 22 Civ. 81924 (S.D. Fla.) (defining the “NARA Referral” as a February 9, 2022 email from the “Special Agent in Charge of NARA’s Office of the Inspector General sent a referral . . . to the Department of Justice”).

⁵ Exhibits denoted “FOIA” have been publicly released by DOJ and/or NARA in response to FOIA requests.

Destruction of Presidential Records.” Ex. 13 (FOIA). The document has not been produced in discovery, but NARA’s heavily redacted FOIA-released version of the email reveals that it ended, “Please let us know if you think this is a matter that warrants further consideration.” *Id.* at OIG000055. In fact, Stern had already communicated with the White House Counsel’s Office and DOJ about the “matter” and believed very much that it “warrant[ed] further consideration” for criminal prosecution.

On February 1, NARA-OIG forwarded Stern’s email to Thomas Windom—now an Assistant Special Counsel who has appeared in the District of Columbia prosecution of President Trump (the “D.C. Case”)—and asked to “discuss the below matter . . .” *Id.* at OIG000054. On February 9, the date on which the Special Counsel’s Office has claimed the referral was made by NARA-OIG, the following events occurred:

- 2:17 pm: The House Committee on Oversight and Reform requested information from NARA regarding the 15 Boxes. Ex. 14 (FOIA).
- 3:01 pm: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. Ex. 15.
- 3:03 pm: Bosanko sent an internal email indicating that he and Stern had “alerted NARA OIG, [the Office of the Director of National Intelligence] OIG, and DOJ.” Ex. 16 (FOIA).
- 5:07 pm: NARA-OIG sent a new sham referral to John Keller of DOJ’s Public Integrity Section. Ex. 17 at OIG000043-46 (FOIA); *see also* Ex. 18 at USA-00309423-26.

NARA-OIG claimed in the 5:07 p.m. email that Stern had [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ex. 18 at USA-00309423.⁶ In

⁶ Contrary to this evidence, NARA has claimed to Congress that there was “no connection” between the Oversight Committee’s inquiry and the sham referral, and that these events were “[w]holly separate and distinct.” Letter from Debra Steidel Wall, Acting Archivist of the United States, to Ranking Members James Comer and Jim Jordan, U.S. House of Representatives (Oct.

response, Keller [REDACTED]. *Id.* [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] *Id.*

On February 11, 2022, the FBI [REDACTED]. *See* Ex. 2. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. *Id.* at USA-00813151-52. In order to avoid that obligation under the PRA, the FBI [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] *Id.* at USA-00813152. However, on February 24, 2022, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Exs. 19, 20, 21. In a text message four days later, Bosanko explained that “the 15 boxes from mar-a-lago have consumed [sic] all of our discussions” with the White House. Ex. 22 (FOIA).

F. DOJ’s Claim Of Urgency Relating To Damage Assessments

In March 2022, Attorney General Merrick Garland authorized DOJ and the FBI to open a criminal investigation targeting President Trump. Although NARA and NARA-OIG had been providing DOJ and the FBI information relating to the 15 Boxes since January 2022, the White House Counsel’s Office did not seek President Trump’s permission under the PRA to grant the FBI access to the 15 Boxes until April 2022. On April 29, 2022, as President Trump and his representatives considered the request, Bratt asserted to President Trump’s attorney that:

25, 2022), *available at* <https://www.archives.gov/files/foia/wall-response-to-10.14.2022-comer-jordan-letter.10.25.2022.pdf>. In support of those assertions, notwithstanding the above-described communications between NARA and NARA-OIG on February 9, 2022, NARA suggested to the Committee that the claimed separation between the inquiry and the purported referral is supported by the fact that the Committee’s letter “did not copy NARA OIG.” *Id.*

[REDACTED]

Ex. 23 at USA-00309419 (emphasis added). Wall, by then NARA’s Acting Archivist, parroted that claim in a May 10, 2022 letter to President Trump’s attorney declaring that NARA would disclose the records over President Trump’s objection. Ex. 24 (FOIA). To date, the Special Counsel’s Office has produced no such damage assessment. *See* Classified Supplement Part 6.

In the May 10, 2022 letter, Wall invoked 44 U.S.C. § 2205(2)(B), declaring that the FBI’s access to the 15 Boxes was “needed for the conduct of current business” of President Biden. Ex. 24 at 1. Wall also wrote that President Biden had “defer[red]” to NARA’s “determination” to overrule President Trump’s invocation of executive privilege after having been “advised” by an “Assistant Attorney General” to take that position. *Id.* at 2-3.

On June 3, 2022, President Trump’s attorneys turned over records bearing classification markings during a meeting at Mar-a-Lago. On August 8, 2022, acting on the explicit authorization from the Biden Administration’s Attorney General, the FBI raided Mar-a-Lago. Additional investigative steps are discussed below in connection with specific discovery requests.

II. Procedural History

In late-September 2023, President Trump informed the Court that the Special Counsel’s Office was not in compliance with its discovery obligations and sought corresponding adjournments of the existing schedule. ECF No. 160 at 2. The deficiencies, which are ongoing, included a failure to produce materials that are subject to *Brady* and Rule 16(a)(1) and outstanding witness-related materials pursuant to the Jencks Act and *Giglio* on the timeframe that the Office agreed to last summer. *E.g.*, ECF No. 30 at 2 (June 21, 2023 submission committing to producing “all” witness statement “promptly”).

In an effort to address these issues without the need for judicial intervention, President Trump sent a series of classified and unclassified discovery requests to the Special Counsel's Office on October 9, Ex. 25; October 19, Classified Supp. Ex. 44; October 31, Classified Supp. Ex. 45; and November 1, 2023, Ex. 26. The Office responded to the requests by letters dated October 16, Ex. 27; October 30, Ex. 28; and November 8, 2023, Exs. 29, 30. Although the prosecutors produced some additional materials, they rejected most of the requests.⁷

During a meet-and-confer call on January 10, 2024, we disclosed core defense themes that support the remaining requests. The Special Counsel's Office has not revised its responses or provided additional information since the call.

DISCUSSION

I. The Court Should Reject The Prosecution's Narrow Definition Of The Prosecution Team

At the core of the pending discovery disputes is the failure of the Special Counsel's Office to acknowledge the consequences for discovery of prosecutors' extensive coordination and resource sharing with the White House, senior officials at DOJ and FBI, and numerous agencies in the Intelligence Community and other parts of the government. The Office cannot reap the benefits of these coordinated activities while ignoring exculpatory information and other discoverable evidence in the same offices. Therefore, the Court must reject the Office's position that the prosecution team is limited to "the prosecutors . . . and law enforcement officers of the [FBI] . . . who are working on this case, including members of the FBI's Washington Field Office and Miami Field Division." Ex. 27 at 1.

⁷ The Special Counsel has yet to produce to defense counsel forensic images of the devices it obtained during the course of its investigation despite having provided such devices to Deloitte for processing in or around March of 2023 according to request for non-FBI processing submitted to the FBI pursuant to Digital Evidence Policy Guide Section 4.3.9. *See* USA-00941365.

The resolution of this issue has important ramifications for discovery during the remainder of the case. The Office must conduct the case file reviews mandated by the Justice Manual based on a complete definition of a prosecution team. The prosecutors must address President Trump’s discovery requests from that perspective as well, which they have not yet done. *See, e.g.*, Ex. 28 ¶¶ 5(b), 5(i), 6-7, 15 (responding to defense requests by claiming materials not possessed by prosecution team). These reviews and responses must include pertinent data from the classified systems used by the agencies, including the classified email accounts used by the prosecutors and their associates that are described in Part 1 of the Classified Supplement. By virtue of the Office’s access to the agencies’ files, the prosecutors must conduct a thorough review for *Giglio* and Jencks Act material before offering trial testimony from one of the agency’s employees—productions the Office promised long ago for every witness. As we have noted in filings since September 2023, responsive materials may ultimately need to be addressed through additional rounds of CIPA practice, but that is no surprise given the subject matter of this case.

Finally, in light of the material evidence uncovered through FOIA, but hidden by the Special Counsel’s Office, the Court should reject any opposition to this motion that lacks a sworn declaration providing assurances that the Office has reviewed and disclosed all communications and evidence that is relevant to the issues of coordination, resource sharing, and investigative alignment that govern the scope of the prosecution team based on the authorities set forth below. Given the Office’s misrepresentations to date, nothing less would ensure a just result at this critical juncture of the case.

A. Applicable Law

“Criminal discovery is not a game. It is integral to the quest for truth and the fair adjudication of guilt or innocence.” *Taylor v. Illinois*, 484 U.S. 400, 419 (1988) (Brennan, J., dissenting). “[A] prosecutor may not sandbag a defendant by the simple expedient of leaving

relevant evidence to repose in the hands of another agency while utilizing his access to it in preparing his case for trial.” *United States v. Marshall*, 132 F.3d 63, 69 (D.C. Cir. 1998) (cleaned up); *see also United States v. Bhutani*, 175 F.3d 572, 577 (7th Cir. 1999) (“The government cannot with its right hand say it has nothing while its left hand holds what is of value.” (cleaned up)).

1. Prosecution Team Scope Under *Brady*

“[T]he individual prosecutor has a duty to learn of any favorable evidence known to the others acting on the government’s behalf in the case, including the police.” *Kyles v. Whitley*, 514 U.S. 419, 437 (1995). Thus, “[u]nder *Brady*, prosecutors have an affirmative duty to reveal any “evidence [that] is material either to guilt or to punishment.” *Smith v. Sec’y, Dep’t of Corr.*, 2006 WL 4495336, at *2 (11th Cir. Dec. 27, 2006) (per curiam); *see also United States v. Safavian*, 233 F.R.D. 12, 17 (D.D.C. 2005) (reasoning that prosecutors have an “affirmative duty” to “search possible sources of exculpatory information,” which includes an obligation “to cause files to be searched that are not only maintained by the prosecutor’s or investigative agency’s office, but also by other branches of government closely aligned with the prosecution.” (cleaned up)).

Thus, “the government may not leave evidence in the hands of a third party to avoid disclosure.” *United States v. McGowan*, 552 F. App’x 950, 953 (11th Cir. 2014). “[B]ecause the significance of an item of evidence can seldom be predicted accurately until the entire record is complete, the prudent prosecutor will resolve doubtful questions in favor of disclosure.” *United States v. Agurs*, 427 U.S. 97, 108 (1976).

Prosecutors are encouraged to err on the side of inclusiveness when identifying the members of the prosecution team for discovery purposes. Carefully considered efforts to locate discoverable information are more likely to avoid future litigation over *Brady* and *Giglio* issues and avoid surprises at trial.

Justice Manual § 9-5.002.

“The Eleventh Circuit follows the ‘prosecution team standard,’ which considers the relationship between the government entity and the prosecutor’s office, looking at the nature of the assistance provided and the extent of cooperation on a particular investigation.” *United States v. Saab Moran*, 2022 WL 4291417, at *3 (S.D. Fla. Sept. 15, 2022) (cleaned up). The prosecution team includes entities that (1) “collaborate extensively” with the prosecution, *United States v. Naranjo*, 634 F.3d 1198, 1212 (11th Cir. 2011); (2) are “closely aligned with the prosecution,” *United States v. Brooks*, 966 F.2d 1500, 1503 (D.C. Cir. 1992); (3) “functioned as agents of the federal government under the principles of agency law,” *United States v. Antone*, 603 F.2d 566, 570 (5th Cir. 1979); or (4) are “important to the investigation and to the evidence presented at trial,” *United States v. Bryant*, 2016 WL 8732411, at *23 (S.D. Fla. Oct. 27, 2016), *report and recommendation adopted*, 2016 WL 8737353. The Justice Manual requires attention to the following additional considerations:

- “Whether the agency played an active role in the prosecution, including conducting . . . or searches, . . . developing prosecutorial strategy, [or] participating in targeting discussions”;
- “Whether the prosecutor knows of and has access to discoverable information held by the agency”;
- “Whether the prosecutor has obtained other information and/or evidence from the agency”; and
- “The degree to which decisions have been made jointly regarding civil, criminal, or administrative charges.”

Justice Manual § 9-5.002

2. “Control” Under Rule 16

“Rule 16 is a discovery rule designed to protect defendants by compelling the prosecution to turn over to the defense evidence material to the charges at issue.” *Yates v. United States*, 574

U.S. 528, 539 (2015). Evidence that is within the prosecution’s “control” and “material to preparing the defense” is subject to disclosure under Rule 16(a)(1)(E)(i). *See* Local Rule 88.10(a).

“[C]ourts have found that the ‘possession, custody, or control of the government’ requirement includes materials in the hands of a governmental investigatory agency closely connected to the prosecutor.” *United States v. Jordan*, 316 F.3d 1215, 1249 (11th Cir. 2003) (citing *United States v. Scruggs*, 583 F.2d 238, 242 (5th Cir. 1978)). “The language and the spirit of the Rule are designed to provide to a criminal defendant, in the interest of fairness, the widest possible opportunity to inspect and receive such materials in the possession of the government as may aid him in presenting his side of the case.” *United States v. Poindexter*, 727 F. Supp. 1470, 1473 (D.D.C. 1989). “The ‘control’ prong of the Rule 16 test generally focuses on the fairness to the defendants rather than the semantics of whether or not the prosecutors actually hold the evidence at the time that it should be produced.” *United States v. Archbold-Manner*, 581 F. Supp. 2d 22, 24 (D.D.C. 2008).

3. Case File Reviews

“It is the obligation of federal prosecutors, in preparing for trial, to seek all exculpatory and impeachment information from all members of the prosecution team.” Justice Manual § 9-5.001; *see also United States v. Jain*, 2020 WL 6047812, at *4 (S.D.N.Y. Oct. 13, 2020) (reasoning that “[a] more thorough review of the case file by the new case agent would have revealed the existence of” undisclosed discoverable information “sooner”). “This search duty also extends to information prosecutors are required to disclose under Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 16 and 26.2 and the Jencks Act.” Justice Manual § 9-5.002.

“The investigative agency’s entire investigative file, including documents such as FBI Electronic Communications (ECs), inserts, emails, etc. should be reviewed for discoverable information.” *Id.* “Substantive case-related communications,” which “may be memorialized in

emails, memoranda, or notes,” “should be reviewed carefully to determine whether all or part of a communication (or the information contained therein) should be disclosed.” *Id.*

B. The Prosecution Team Includes Agencies And Attorneys That Participated In The Investigation

Personnel from the agencies discussed below are part of the prosecution team for purposes of the discovery obligations of the Special Counsel’s Office under *Brady*, *Giglio*, Rule 16(a)(1)(E), and the Jencks Act.

1. NARA

NARA is part of the prosecution team in this case because of the agency’s participation in significant investigative steps, such as the collection and review of the 15 Boxes, and its close coordination with DOJ, FBI, and the White House. *See Saab Moran*, 2022 WL 4291417, at *5 (reasoning that the prosecution team includes “organizations and/or their subparts [that] collaborated with the prosecutors in this case to procure [defendant’s] indictment”); *see also United States v. Bingert Sturgeon*, 2023 WL 3203092, at *4 (D.D.C. May 2, 2023) (reasoning that agency was part of prosecution team because of, *inter alia*, “extensive cooperation with the U.S. Attorney’s office in gathering evidence for this case”). As the Special Counsel’s Office conceded in the District of Columbia,⁸ this includes NARA-OIG, which participated in the investigation by at least the time of the February 9, 2022 sham referral email, Ex. 17 at OIG000043-46 (FOIA), and in subsequent communications with the FBI and others.

⁸ ECF No. 166-7 at 2, *United States v. Trump*, No. 23 Cr. 257 (D.D.C. Nov. 27, 2023) (“[L]aw enforcement agencies that worked on the investigation leading to this case were the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General (DOJ OIG); the National Archives Inspector General (NARA OIG); and the United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS).”).

As discussed in more detail in the Background section above, NARA—including its White House Liaison Division—worked closely with the Biden Administration’s WH-ORM dating back to January 2021. By at least the fall of 2021, NARA’s General Counsel had “[REDACTED]” [REDACTED] Ex. 5 at USA-00383606. In January 2022, NARA communicated with White House Counsel and senior DOJ officials regarding the 15 Boxes, and then acted at the direction of those components by providing details to NARA-OIG, the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, and the FBI. *See* Ex. 2 at USA-00813156; Ex. 12 at OIG000081 (FOIA).

In February 2022, NARA-OIG contacted Assistant Special Counsel Thomas P. Windom, among others, because by that time NARA-OIG was already working with Windom on a related investigation of President Trump. Ex. 13 at OIG000054 (FOIA). About a week later, following a congressional inquiry relating to the 15 Boxes, NARA-OIG sent the sham referral to the Public Integrity Section. *See* Ex. 17 at OIG000043-46 (FOIA); Ex. 18 at USA-00309423-26.

One of the first steps investigative steps taken by the FBI appears to have been the [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. *See* Ex. 2. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. *Id.* at USA-00813151-52.⁹ [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. *Id.* Wall’s May 10, 2022 letter is further evidence that NARA must be considered part of the prosecution team. *See* Ex. 24 (FOIA). The letter confirmed that NARA was rejecting President Trump’s PRA-related objections based on coordination with, and advice from, the Biden Administration and DOJ. *Id.* at 2-3.

⁹ The partisan gamesmanship by NARA reflected in this report, as well as other documents, puts the lie to NARA’s public claim in April 2023 that “NARA does not consider itself to be involved in the work of, or investigations by, the requestors.” Media Alert, Statement on PRA Special Access Requests, National Archives (Apr. 12, 2023), <https://www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2023/nr23-013>.

At this time, the evidence of NARA’s coordination and assistance to the investigation arises largely from FOIA releases. The releases strongly suggest that any factfinding on this issue, in the form of testimony or documents, will further support President Trump’s position. *See United States v. Griggs*, 713 F.2d 672, 674 (11th Cir. 1983) (“[T]here is some merit to the contention that, if the arguably exculpatory statements of witnesses discussed supra were in the prosecutor’s file and not produced, failure to disclose indicates the ‘tip of an iceberg’ of evidence that should have been revealed under *Brady*.”). However, the current record is more than sufficient to demonstrate that the Special Counsel’s Office cannot pretend that it lacks access to NARA’s files for purposes of *Brady*, Rule 16, *Giglio*, and the Jencks Act.

2. The Intelligence Community

The prosecution team includes the Intelligence Community agencies and components that participated in the investigation, such as during classification reviews and damage assessments. This includes the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the agencies identified in paragraph 22 of the Indictment as “equity” holders of some of the documents at issue: the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Department, the National Security Agency, the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, the National Reconnaissance Office, the Department of Energy, and the State Department. *See Saab Moran*, 2022 WL 4291417, at *4 (“[T]he ‘prosecution team’ must be understood in the context of, and measured against, [defendant’s] indictment.”); *Bingert Sturgeon*, 2023 WL 3203092, at *3 (rejecting prosecution’s “more restrictive standard . . . that in order to be considered an arm of the government for purposes of this case, the USSS would need to be the law enforcement agency that *investigated* the charged crimes, which was in fact the FBI”).

Though the Special Counsel’s Office has suppressed these communications, we know from FOIA releases that NARA started to coordinate with the Inspector General of the Intelligence

Community by January 25, 2022. Ex. 12 at OIG000080-81 (FOIA). Moreover, for the reasons set forth in Part 4 of the Classified Supplement, the Intelligence Community’s participation in the classification-review process warrants inclusion within the prosecution team for purposes of discovery obligations. So too does the access to Intelligence Community holdings by the Special Counsel’s Office discussed in Part 1 of the Classified Supplement.

DOJ’s discussions of its “interconnected” work with the Intelligence Community in *Trump v. United States*, No. 22 Civ. 81294, are telling concessions on this issue. For example, in an August 30, 2022 filing, DOJ explained that

DOJ and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (“ODNI”) are currently facilitating a classification review of these materials, and ODNI is leading an Intelligence Community assessment of the potential risk to national security that would result from the disclosure of these materials.

ECF No. 48 at 19-20, No. 22 Civ. 81294.¹⁰ In a September 8, 2022 motion for a stay pending appeal, DOJ argued:

[T]he ongoing Intelligence Community (“IC”) classification review and [damage] assessment are *closely interconnected with—and cannot be readily separated from*—areas of inquiry of DOJ’s and the FBI’s ongoing criminal investigation, as further explained in the attached Declaration of Alan E. Kohler, Jr., Assistant Director of the FBI’s Counterintelligence Division.

ECF No. 69 at 12, No. 22 Civ. 81294 (emphasis added); *see also id.* at 3 (arguing that “[t]he Intelligence Community’s review and assessment cannot be readily segregated from [DOJ’s] and [FBI’s] activities in connection with the ongoing criminal investigation”).

DOJ also acknowledged that the classification reviews were conducted “under the supervision of the Director of National Intelligence.” ECF No. 48 at 28, No. 22 Civ. 81294. FBI

¹⁰ As discussed in Part 6 of the Classified Supplement, it is far from clear what “ongoing” “assessment” DOJ was referring to in that submission given the discovery that has been produced to date.

Assistant Director Kohler confirmed this point, noting that the Office of the Director of National Intelligence had “agreed to oversee and help coordinate [with the FBI] the ongoing classification review.” ECF No. 69-1 ¶ 7, No. 22 Civ. 81294. He added that “the IC assessments *will necessarily inform the FBI’s criminal investigation*, including subsequent investigative steps that might be necessary.” *Id.* ¶ 9 (emphasis added).

DOJ doubled down on these positions in its reply submission:

[T]he IC’s intelligence classification review and national security assessment—which the Court sought to allow to continue in recognition of the vital interests at stake—are *closely linked to its criminal investigation*, and therefore cannot proceed effectively while the injunction remains in place.

ECF No. 88 at 7, No. 22 Civ. 81294 (emphasis added). Because these assertions were accurate and are borne out by even the incomplete discovery that has been produced thus far, the discovery obligations of the Special Counsel’s Office extend to the files of the Intelligence Community.

3. The White House

The prosecution team includes at least the National Security Council, which is part of the White House’s Executive Office of the President, the White House Counsel’s Office, and WH-ORM.

As discussed in Part 1 of the Classified Supplement, the National Security Council is part of the prosecution team based on the same rationales that apply to the Intelligence Community. The Council was responsible for the creation and handling of many of the documents at issue, and the Special Counsel’s Office will be required to rely on personnel from the National Security Council at trial to demonstrate that the documents it authored are classified and constitute information “relating to the national defense” (“NDI”) under 18 U.S.C. § 793(e).

The White House Counsel’s Office and WH-ORM are part of the prosecution team because they repeatedly supported the investigative activities of DOJ, FBI, and NARA. *See Strickler v.*

Greene, 527 U.S. 263, 275 n.12 (1999) (reasoning that the “prosecutor is responsible for any favorable evidence known to the others acting on the government’s behalf in the case” (cleaned up)). In September 2021, NARA General Counsel Stern [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ex. 7 at USA-00383683-84. Two weeks later, Stern [REDACTED] *Id.* at USA-00383682. In January 2022, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Ex. 2 at USA-00813156. In February 2022, Bosanko wrote to a colleague that NARA’s communications with the White House had been consumed by issues relating to the 15 Boxes. *See* Ex. 22 (FOIA). In NARA’s May 10, 2022 letter, the Acting Archivist, Wall, disclosed that she was acting based in part on communications with “[t]he Counsel to the President.” Ex. 24 at 2 (FOIA). Although the Biden Administration clearly took steps to create a false appearance of separation from the investigation that it was driving, these White House components cannot escape the import of these activities for purposes of the prosecution-team analysis. The Special Counsel’s Office must produce discoverable information from the White House’s files.

4. The Department of Justice

The prosecution team includes senior DOJ officials at the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Deputy Attorney General, the Office of Legal Counsel, and the National Security Division, as well as personnel from the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Florida (“USAO-SDFL”) who participated in the investigation—including former Acting U.S. Attorney Juan Antonio Gonzalez.

Following NARA [REDACTED], *see* Ex. 5 at USA-00383606, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. See Ex. 2 at USA-00813156.

In March 2022, [REDACTED]. Exs. 31, 32. NARA's May 10, 2022 letter overruling President Trump's objection to providing the 15 Boxes to the FBI was based in part on "a request from the Department of Justice" and "consultation with the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel." Ex. 24 at 1-2 (FOIA). Just over a week later, [REDACTED]. See Ex. 33 at USA-00940262.

The Attorney General "personally approved" the search warrant relied on in connection with the August 8, 2022 Mar-a-Lago raid.¹¹ Prior to that extraordinary step, on August 1, 2022, senior DOJ officials met with FBI leadership at "FBIHQ" for a "Search Warrant Discussion." Ex. 34 (FOIA). DOJ participants in the meeting included Assistant Attorney General Matthew Olsen, Newman, Toscas, and Bratt. At the time, Bratt was the Chief of the DOJ's National Security Division's Counterintelligence and Export Control Section.

On August 3, 2022, [REDACTED]. See Ex. 35 at USA-00940276. According to an email [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] *Id.*

¹¹ Attorney General Merrick Garland Delivers Remarks, U.S. Dep't of Justice (Aug. 11, 2022), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/speech/attorney-general-merrick-garland-delivers-remarks>.

On August 10, 2022, Newman and Toscas, as well as Rush Atkinson, Austin Evers, and Loeb from the Office of the Deputy Attorney General, reviewed a motion by Judicial Watch to unseal the search warrant. Exs. 36 (FOIA), 37 (attachment omitted) (FOIA). Two days later, Toscas and Bratt kept Olsen, Newman, and Gonzalez apprised of developments in that litigation by forwarding communications with President Trump's attorneys. Ex. 38 (FOIA).

On August 17, 2022, Bratt communicated with Olsen, Newman, Toscas, Gonzalez, and several attorneys from the Office of the Deputy Attorney General regarding Bratt's instruction to "turn off the cameras" prior to the raid. Ex. 39 at 01715-01050 (FOIA); *see also* Ex. 40 at 01715-01058 (Newman conveying that he and Toscas "agree[d]" with a proposed course of action) (FOIA); Ex. 41 at 01715-01061 (Toscas writing that he was "[h]andling that now") (FOIA). On the night of August 17, Bratt sent a letter to President Trump's attorneys about safety concerns relating to alleged video of the raid, which was drafted "[a]fter consultations with George [Newman] and David [Toscas]." Ex. 42 at 01715-01070 (FOIA); *see also* Ex. 43 (Newman sending Toscas "[d]raft version for editing") (FOIA); Ex. 44 (Newman confirming that Bratt had been "in touch with George [Toscas] about this letter") (FOIA).

Later in August 2022, Bratt and Gonzalez coordinated with Newman and Toscas regarding media unsealing requests relating to the warrant. Ex. 45 (FOIA); Ex. 46 at 01715-01505 (FOIA). Following a hearing and ruling on the motion, Bratt and Gonzalez sent the order to, among others, Olsen, Toscas, and Marshall Miller from the Office of the Deputy Attorney General, and AUSAs from the USAO-SDFL who subsequently joined the Special Counsel's Office. Ex. 47 (FOIA); *see also* Ex. 48 at 01715-02311 (FOIA).

On August 28, 2022, NARA General Counsel Stern contacted Martin Lederman of DOJ's Office of Legal Counsel with "time-sensitive . . . questions." Ex. 49 at 01715-02260-62 (FOIA).

Like many of the others, the communications released pursuant to FOIA—but not produced in discovery—are heavily redacted. It is nevertheless clear that Stern was “interested to know DOJ’s view” on “a question or two,” which Lederman discussed with Atkinson from the Office of the Deputy Attorney General and then passed on to Newman, Evers, and others. *Id.*

In sum, senior DOJ officials regularly participated in and consulted on key decisions during the investigation, including the opening of the investigation, advice and counsel to NARA, the decision to raid Mar-a-Lago, deliberations with FBI regarding warrant execution, and post-warrant litigation. Based on those activities, these officials’ components within DOJ are part of the prosecution team, and the Special Counsel’s Office must collect and produce discoverable information from their files.

5. The Special Counsel’s Office

The prosecution team is not limited to attorneys at the Special Counsel’s Office who consider themselves to be “working on this case.” Ex. 27 at 1. Pursuant to Attorney General Garland’s Order No. 5559-2022, the Special Counsel’s Office has conducted broad investigations that gave rise to this case and to the other lawless charges in the D.C. Case. In accordance with that Order, the Office did not silo its investigative activities or its personnel during the investigations, and it should not be permitted to do so now for purposes of discovery. *See Giglio v. United States*, 405 U.S. 150, 154 (1972) (“The prosecutor’s office is an entity and as such it is the spokesman for the Government.”); *United States v. Dimas*, 3 F.3d 1015, 1018 n.1 (7th Cir. 1993) (“Knowledge of *Brady* material may be imputed between prosecutors in the same office.”).

For example, the Special Counsel’s Office used the same grand jury in this District for matters relating to both cases. Assistant Special Counsel John Pellettieri has appeared on behalf of the Office in this case and in the D.C. Case. In February 2022, NARA-OIG first contacted

Windom about the investigation. Windom is now a Senior Assistant Special Counsel (“SASC”) who appearance on behalf of the Office in the D.C. Case. However, dating back to the June 2022 [REDACTED], Windom participated in approximately 29 of the interviews described in discovery in this case. On the other hand, Bratt participated in 10 of the interviews that have been produced in discovery in the D.C. Case. Collectively, these considerations reveal that there is no principled basis for limiting the scope of the prosecution team to attorneys at the Office deemed to be “working on the case.” Discovery obligations and case-file reviews must cover all of the Office’s personnel.

6. FBI Headquarters: The Counterintelligence Division

Nor is the FBI contingent of the prosecution team limited to agents from the Washington and Miami Field Offices. *See* Ex. 27 at 1. Rather, the prosecution team includes personnel from the Counterintelligence Division of the FBI’s headquarters.

On February 9, 2022, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Ex. 18 at USA-00309423. In April 2022, the Counterintelligence Division—[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. Ex. 50 at USA-00940483.

Beginning in approximately June 2022, as discussed in the Classified Supplement, the Counterintelligence Division played a central role in classification reviews. FBI participants at the above-described “Search Warrant Discussion” on August 1, 2022, included not only personnel from the FBI’s Washington Field Office but Assistant Director Kohler, who leads the FBI’s Counterintelligence Division. *See* Ex. 34 (FOIA).

At least one agent from “FBI Headquarters” [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Ex. 51 at USA-00940244. Later that month when participants in the investigation grew concerned that video of the raid would be released, DOJ “wait[ed] to hear back from FBIHQ on their recommended approach.” Ex. 40 at 01715-01058. Finally, as noted above, in September 2022, FBI Assistant Director Kohler submitted a declaration in support of a DOJ motion in *Trump v. United States*, No. 22 Civ. 81294 (ECF No. 69-1). Accordingly, because the FBI’s Counterintelligence Division was central to several key steps in the investigation, it is part of the prosecution team.

7. The Secret Service

The Secret Service is part of the prosecution team because agents worked closely with the FBI during at least two important points.

First, the Secret Service [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Ex. 52. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] *Id.* at USA-00940266. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ex. 53 at USA-00940954.

Second, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Specifically, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Ex. 51 at USA-00940244. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] *Id.*

C. The Special Counsel's Office Has An Affirmative Duty To Search For Discoverable Evidence

The Special Counsel's Office has an affirmative obligation to collect and produce discoverable evidence in the possession of the entire prosecution team. Because of the evidence of coordination with the Intelligence Community and the Office's related assertions in *Trump v. United States*, the Court need not address whether, pursuant to the Justice Manual and as in other cases, the Office must utilize the Prudential Search Request process. See Justice Manual § 9-90.210; see also, e.g., *Saab Moran*, 2022 WL 4291417, at *3; *United States v. Doe No. 2*, 2009 WL 10720338, at *3 (S.D. Fla. Oct. 23, 2009).¹² That is because the Office's obligations are basic applications of actual- and constructive-possession principles under *Brady* and Rule 16(a)(1)(E) in light of the extensive coordination established by the record.

“[T]here is no suggestion in *Brady* that different ‘arms’ of the government, particularly when so closely connected as this one for the purpose of the case, are severable entities.” *United States v. Deutsch*, 475 F.2d 55, 57 (5th Cir. 1973). The coordination and sharing between the Special Counsel's Office and these agencies “suggests that the government declining to search for and produce potentially material documents . . . would clearly conflict with the purpose and spirit of the rules governing discovery in criminal cases.” *United States v. Sheppard*, 2022 WL 17978837, at *11 (D.D.C. Dec. 28, 2022) (cleaned up); see also *United States v. Bases*, 549 F.

¹² Accord *United States v. Raymond*, 2023 WL 7611601, at *2 (D.D.C. Nov. 14, 2023) (“The Government's prudential review uncovered a number of classified records that may qualify as *Brady*, *Giglio*, or *Jencks* material.”); *United States v. Kuciapinski*, 2022 WL 3081928, at *6 (D. Colo. Aug. 3, 2022) (“[DOJ's] Counterintelligence and Export Control Section made a Prudential Search Request with the federal agencies . . . controlling the discovery that [defendant] requested in his Motion for Specific Discovery.”); *United States v. Bagcho*, 151 F. Supp. 3d 60, 67 (D.D.C. 2015) (noting prosecution's pre-trial “search of agency records”); *United States v. Kim*, 2013 WL 3866542, at *3 (D.D.C. July 24, 2013) (noting that the prosecution “has searched for documents or information concerning any formal criminal investigation of unauthorized disclosures of national defense information” by potential alternate perpetrators).

Supp. 3d 822, 828 (N.D. Ill. 2021) (“[S]imply because the DOJ conducted some parts of the investigation on its own does not erase its joint and coordinated activities with the CFTC in others.”); *Archbold-Manner*, 581 F. Supp. 2d at 24 (“The fact that the evidence was originally seized by Colombian authorities is insufficient for the government to avoid Rule 16.”).

In *United States v. Libby*, the court held that the prosecution team included the Office of the Vice President and the CIA because that Special Counsel’s Office had “sought and received a variety of documents” from those agencies, which were “closely aligned with the prosecution.” 429 F. Supp. 2d 1, 11 (D.D.C. 2006). The court held that it “would clearly conflict with the purpose and spirit of the rules governing discovery in criminal cases” to

permit the Office of Special Counsel access to a plethora of documents from the OVP and CIA, which are likely essential to the prosecution of this case, but leave other documents with these entities that are purportedly beyond the Special Counsel’s reach, but which are nonetheless material to the preparation of the defense.

Id. *Libby* involved one of “several courts [that] have noted that a prosecutor who has had access to documents in other agencies in the course of his investigation cannot avoid his discovery obligations by selectively leaving the materials with the agency once he has reviewed them.” *United States v. Poindexter*, 727 F. Supp. 1470, 1478 (D.D.C. 1989); *see also United States v. Giffen*, 379 F. Supp. 2d 337, 343 (S.D.N.Y. 2004) (“Documents that the Government has reviewed or has access to must be provided to aid a defendant in preparing his defense.”).

The prosecutors in *Oseguera Gonzalez* recognized a similar obligation. There, in a case involving alleged violations of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Act investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the prosecutors reviewed records at the Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (“OFAC”). 507 F. Supp. 3d 137, 169-170 (D.D.C. 2020). The prosecutors did so

to determine whether they contained any evidence that would be discoverable under Rule 16 or as impeachment or exculpatory material . . . including classified and privileged material to the extent that they exist . . . and . . . produced documents to the defendant in discovery that the government obtained through that review.

Id. at 170 (cleaned up); *see also* ECF No. 80, *United States v. Griffith*, No. 20 Cr. 15 (S.D.N.Y. Dec. 29, 2020) (“Defendant’s motion to compel discovery of material in the possession of OFAC is GRANTED to the extent that the government is directed to conduct a review of material in the possession of OFAC for the period from October 24, 2019 to the present that is related to Mr. Griffith’s prosecution; the government shall disclose any materials that must be disclosed to the defendant consistent with the government’s obligations.”).

“[B]urdensomeness,” “logistical difficulty,” and “concerns about confidentiality and the privacy rights of others” do not “trump the right of one charged with a crime to present a fair defense.” *United States v. O’Keefe*, 2007 WL 1239204, at *2 (D.D.C. Apr. 27, 2007). In *O’Keefe*, the court ordered the prosecutors to search seven consular facilities at cities in Canada and Mexico for evidence that was material to defenses relating to visa applications. *Id.* at *3. The court required the searches to cover the files of “consulate secretaries and non-U.S. citizen employees,” and to include “memoranda, letters, e-mails, faxes and other correspondence.” *Id.* The reviews were undoubtedly onerous, but nevertheless necessary to ensure a just. So too here, in this case of scope and significance chosen by the Special Counsel’s Office.

II. The Special Counsel’s Office Must Be Compelled To Comply With Their Discovery Obligations

President Trump has made a series of specific discovery requests for discoverable materials that support anticipated pretrial motions and trial defenses that he is seeking to develop. *See Saab Moran*, 2022 WL 4291417, at *3 (reasoning that it “[f]oreclosing that defense now—before [defendant] has had an opportunity to establish it—would simply be unjust” (cleaned up)). While

wrongly rejecting most of those requests, the Special Counsel’s Office has offered only vague and unsupported claims that it is “in compliance” with its discovery obligations, “aware of” those obligations, and “will comply” with them. Ex. 27 at 11; *see also* ECF No. 187 at 1 (“The Government has complied with (and exceeded) its discovery obligations to date . . .”).

The record proves otherwise. *See United States v. Naegle*, 468 F. Supp. 2d 150, 152 n.2 (D.D.C. 2007) (“[N]ow that the Court realizes that its view of *Brady* and the government’s have not been consistent for many years, it no longer accepts conclusory assertions by the Department of Justice that it ‘understands’ its *Brady* obligations and ‘will comply’ or ‘has complied’ with them.”). Moreover, whereas in the D.C. Case the Office at least claimed to have “proceeded consistently” with the Justice Manual,¹³ the Office has not made that assertion in this case. They could not credibly do so based on this record. Accordingly, the Court should compel the Office to provide materials in the possession of the prosecution team that are responsive to the requests below and in the Classified Supplement.

A. Applicable Law

1. “Favorable” Evidence Under *Brady*

Brady “rests upon an abhorrence of the concealment of material arguing for innocence by one arguing for guilt.” *United States v. Ramirez*, 513 F.2d 72, 78 (5th Cir. 1975). “[T]here is an obligation on the part of the prosecution to produce certain evidence actually or constructively in its possession or accessible to it in the interests of inherent fairness.” *Calley v. Callaway*, 519 F.2d 184, 223 (5th Cir. 1975).

The issue of whether evidence is “favorable” under *Brady* is a “relatively low hurdle.” *United States v. Wasserman*, 2024 WL 130807, at *6 (M.D. Fla. Jan. 11, 2024).

¹³ ECF No. 65 at 13 n.2, *United States v. Trump*, No. 23 Cr. 257 (D.D.C. Oct. 2, 2023).

The meaning of the term “favorable” under *Brady* is not difficult to discern. It is any information in the possession of the government—broadly defined to include all Executive Branch agencies—that relates to guilt or punishment and that tends to help the defense by either bolstering the defense case or impeaching potential prosecution witnesses. It covers both exculpatory and impeachment evidence.

United States v. Safavian, 233 F.R.D. 12, 16-17 (D.D.C. 2005); *see also United States v. Rodriguez*, 2011 WL 666136, at *2 (S.D. Fla. Feb. 13, 2011) (“[T]he defense is entitled to any information from a witness that is exculpatory in the sense that the defense may want to elicit testimony from the witness to contradict another government witness.”); Local Rule 88.10(c) (requiring disclosures “of all information and material known to the government which may be favorable to the defendant on the issues of guilt or punishment”).

“[B]ecause the significance of an item of evidence can seldom be predicted accurately until the entire record is complete, the prudent prosecutor will resolve doubtful questions in favor of disclosure.” *United States v. Agurs*, 427 U.S. 97, 108 (1976); *see also United States v. Bundy*, 968 F.3d 1019, 1033 (9th Cir. 2020) (reasoning that “[t]he retrospective definition of materiality is appropriate only in the context of appellate review,” and “trial prosecutors must disclose favorable information without attempting to predict whether its disclosure might affect the outcome of the trial.” (cleaned up)); Justice Manual § 9-5.001(C) (“[T]his policy requires disclosure by prosecutors of information beyond that which is ‘material’ to guilt . . .”).

“A prosecutor must disclose information that is inconsistent with any element of any crime charged against the defendant or that establishes a recognized affirmative defense . . .” Justice Manual § 9-5.001(C)(1). “[T]he disclosure requirement of this section applies to information regardless of whether the information subject to disclosure would itself constitute admissible evidence.” *Id.* § 9-5.001(C)(3). These disclosure requirements apply “regardless of whether the

prosecutor believes such information will make the difference between conviction and acquittal of the defendant for a charged crime.” *Id.* § 9-5.001(C)(1).

It is demonstrably not the responsibility of a prosecutor to test the credibility or trustworthiness of an exculpatory statement given by a witness or to weigh that statement against their assessment of the inculpatory evidence in the case. It is their responsibility to disclose exculpatory evidence promptly no matter what they may think of its reliability or trustworthiness.”

United States v. Sutton, 2022 WL 2383974, at *4 (D.D.C. July 1, 2022).

2. “Material” Evidence Under Rule 16

Evidence that is “material to preparing the defense” is subject to disclosure under Rule 16(a)(1)(E)(i). The language of the materiality requirement “indicates that the drafters of the rule recognized the government’s *Brady* obligation.” *Jordan*, 316 F.3d at 1250 n.74. Thus, “[t]he ‘materiality standard’ is ‘not a heavy burden,’ and ‘evidence is material as long as there is a strong indication that it will ‘play an important role in uncovering admissible evidence, aiding witness preparation, corroborating testimony, or assisting impeachment or rebuttal.’” *Wasserman*, 2022 WL 17324426, at *3 (quoting *United States v. Lloyd*, 992 F.2d 348, 351 (D.C. Cir. 1993)).

Rule 16(a)(1)(E) “is not necessarily limited to preparation for trial defenses.” *United States v. Singleton*, 2023 WL 2164588, at *3 (S.D. Fla. Feb. 13, 2023) (report and recommendation). Evidence can be “material” in “several ways: by preparing a strategy to confront the damaging evidence at trial; by conducting an investigation to attempt to discredit that evidence; or by not presenting a defense which is undercut by such evidence.” *United States v. Marshall*, 132 F.3d 63, 68 (D.C. Cir. 1998). The Rule also “permits discovery to determine whether evidence in a particular case was obtained in violation of the Constitution and is thus inadmissible.” *United States v. Soto-Zuniga*, 837 F.3d 992, 1001 (9th Cir. 2016).

The prosecution “cannot take a narrow reading of the term ‘material’ in making its decisions on what to disclose under Rule 16.” *O’Keefe*, 2007 WL 1239204, at *2. “[B]urdensomeness,” “logistical difficulty,” and “concerns about confidentiality and the privacy rights of others” do not “trump the right of one charged with a crime to present a fair defense.” *Id.* “The language and the spirit of the Rule are designed to provide to a criminal defendant, in the interest of fairness, the widest possible opportunity to inspect and receive such materials in the possession of the government as may aid him in presenting his side of the case.” *United States v. Poindexter*, 727 F. Supp. 1470, 1473 (D.D.C. 1989).

B. Improper Coordination With NARA To Abuse The Grand Jury Process

[REDACTED], Ex. 6 at USA-00383678, the record suggests that the Special Counsel’s Office coordinated with NARA to use one or more pretextual grand jury subpoenas as an investigative tool designed to circumvent PRA procedures. The coordination is further evidence of NARA’s role on the prosecution team, and the Office should be required to make further disclosures regarding these issues because they support President Trump’s arguments relating to violations of due process and the PRA.

1. Background

On November 22, 2022, the FBI’s Counterintelligence Division [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ex. 54. It is not clear how [REDACTED]

During a call on January 26, 2023, th [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Ex. 55. The FBI’s report relating to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED].” *Id.* at USA-00941292. On February 13, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ex. 56.

On May 4, 2023, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Ex. 57. The report [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Id. The report also [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] *Id.* at USA-00943085-86.

A set of notes relating to the May 4, 2023 meeting shed additional light on the discussion.

Ex. 58. The notes suggest that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] *Id.* The notes contain the following additional entries:

- [REDACTED]¹⁴

¹⁴ See Nunes Statement on Release of HPSCI Memo, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (Feb. 2, 2018), <https://intelligence.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=856>.

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Id.

2. Discussion

The Special Counsel's Office should be required to make additional disclosures regarding the foregoing sequence of events, including all reports, notes, and communications concerning the production of documents by NARA to DOJ, FBI, or the Special Counsel's Office and the decision to issue grand jury subpoenas to NARA during the course of those events. *See* Local Rule 88.10(g) (requiring preservation of "all rough notes").

It is clear from the record that the Special Counsel's Office did not need to use grand jury subpoenas to obtain records from NARA in 2023. *See United States v. (Under Seal)*, 714 F.2d 347, 349 (4th Cir. 1983) (reasoning that the "grand jury serves an independent investigatory function" and "practices which do not aid the grand jury in its quest for information bearing on the decision to indict are forbidden"). NARA [REDACTED]. Ex. 2. By February 2022, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. In April and May 2022, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ex. 23 at USA-00309419; Ex. 24 (FOIA). The FBI's November 2022 memorandum [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is further proof that all parties understood that compulsory process was unnecessary. *See* Ex. 50.

Some references in the reports and notes suggest that the prosecution team was strategizing on how best to transfer records from the Trump Administration while providing minimal notice under the PRA. *See United States v. Goldstein*, 989 F.3d 1178, 1202 (11th Cir. 2021) (“A due process problem might arise in the context of parallel investigations if the two government arms collude in bad faith to deprive the defendant of his constitutional rights . . . [in a manner that] involves ‘affirmative misrepresentations’ or ‘trickery or deceit’”); *United States v. Stringer*, 535 F.3d 929, 940 (9th Cir. 2008) (“A government official must not affirmatively mislead the subject of parallel civil and criminal investigations into believing that the investigation is exclusively civil in nature and will not lead to criminal charges.” (cleaned up)); *United States v. Gertner*, 65 F.3d 963, 971 (1st Cir. 1995) (“We take no pleasure in upholding a finding that government actors constructed a pretext to avoid due compliance with statutorily prescribed requirements.”). Thus, the requested document disclosures—as opposed to post-hoc justifications from the Office—are necessary to shed light on entries reflecting discussion of, for example: (1) “compliance considerations,” Ex. 55 at USA-00941292; (2) [REDACTED] Ex. 57 at USA-00943085; and (3) [REDACTED] Ex. 58.

Finally, the notes from the May 4, 2023 meeting suggest that [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. *See* Ex. 57 at USA-00943085. That request supports President Trump’s position that the Office’s relationship with NARA is anything but arms’ length, which is why, as discussed above, NARA must be considered part of the prosecution team. In addition, any instruction by the Office to withhold otherwise-responsive records is also probative of an abuse of the grand jury process. *See United States v. Calk*, 87 F.4th 164, 186 (2d

Cir. 2023) (“[C]ourts may not ignore possible abuse of the grand jury process, as the grand jury is not meant to be the private tool of a prosecutor.” (cleaned up)). Moreover, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] would be even more problematic if any of those materials were favorable to President Trump and have not been produced. For all of these reasons, the Office should be required to identify and disclose [REDACTED] referenced in Exhibits 57 and 58, as well as the subset of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] *Id.*

C. The Attempt To Retroactively Terminate President Trump’s Security Clearance And Related Disclosures

In June 2023, after the Office filed the lawless charges in this case, the Department of Energy purported to retroactively terminate President Trump’s security clearance. The Office must make further disclosures regarding the circumstances of that decision, as they are probative of President Trump’s bias defense, and potential motions regarding spoliation of evidence relating to database records that previously reflected the clearance. Records reflecting that President Trump possessed an active security clearance in 2023 are also discoverable because they are relevant to the issue of whether any possession of allegedly unclassified documents in 2021 and 2022 was “unauthorized,” as alleged in the § 793(e) charges in the Superseding Indictment. More broadly, all records relating to President Trump’s security clearances and training are relevant to the Office’s allegations regarding “unauthorized” possession and “willful[]” conduct under § 793(e).

1. Background

On August 15, 2023, the Special Counsel’s Office disclosed an exculpatory Department of Energy memorandum relating to President Trump’s security clearance. The memorandum was signed on June 28, 2023, weeks after the Office filed the Indictment but more than a month before

it was produced. It is unclear from the discovery how and to whom the memorandum was transmitted to the prosecution team.

In the memorandum, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Ex. 59 at USA-01116848. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]” *Id.* [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. *Id.*

After locating this memorandum interspersed with the huge volume of discovery, President Trump requested additional disclosures relating to the Energy Department’s determination and other security clearance issues. The Office declined to provide any additional information. To date, the productions of the Special Counsel’s Office concerning these issues appear to have been limited to a June 15, 2023 FBI document reporting that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ex. 60. According to

Intelligence Community Policy Guidance § 704.5, Scattered Castles is the “the program name for the IC security clearance repository for all clearance and access determinations.”¹⁵ Section 704.5(g) requires that certain historical clearance records be maintained. The Defense Department

¹⁵ Intelligence Community Personnel Security Database Scattered Castles, Intelligence Community Policy Guidance 704.5, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, *available at* https://www.dni.gov/files/documents/ICPG/ICPG-704-5-IC_Personnel_Security_Database_Scattered_Castles_2020-02-25.pdf (last visited Jan. 15, 2024).

also maintains a Defense Information System for Security, which was known as the Joint Personnel Adjudication System during the Trump Administration.¹⁶ It does not appear that the Office has produced any records, or confirmation of the lack of relevant records, from that system.

2. Discussion

All information concerning President Trump’s security clearances, read-ins, and related training is discoverable in light of President Trump’s bias and due process defenses, as well as the allegations in the § 793(e) charges relating to “unauthorized” and “willful[]” possession. *See United States v. Morison*, 844 F.2d 1057, 1071 (4th Cir. 1988) (“An act is done willfully if it is done voluntarily and intentionally and with the specific intent to do something that the law forbids. That is to say, with a bad purpose either to disobey or to disregard the law.”).¹⁷ This includes, where applicable, the failure to maintain formal documentation and training that is typically required, which could support a good-faith belief that possession was authorized because such formalities had previously been dispensed with. *See United States v. Larrahondo*, 885 F. Supp. 2d 209, 218 (D.D.C. 2012) (“[U]nder *Brady*, the government has an obligation to turn over material information that would undermine the evidence it intends to admit at trial.”); *see also United States v. Hitselberger*, 991 F. Supp. 2d 101, 106 (D.D.C. 2013) (discussing relevance of training); *United*

¹⁶ Defense Information System for Security (DISS), Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency, <https://www.dcsa.mil/Systems-Applications/Defense-Information-System-for-Security-DISS> (last visited Jan. 15, 2024).

¹⁷ In *Morison*, the Fourth Circuit discussed a related instruction regarding whether information is “relating to the national defense,” *i.e.*, the NDI Element of § 793(e) discussed in the Classified Supplement. *See* 844 F.2d at 1071-72. The approved instruction on the NDI Element required that information from the photographs at issue in *Morison* be (1) “closely held,” and (2) “potentially damaging to the United States or might . . . useful to an enemy of the United States.” *Id.* President Trump will establish in pretrial motions, motions *in limine*, and proposed jury instructions that the Court should provide a similar instruction on the NDI Element under the unique circumstances of this case.

States v. Kiriakou, 898 F. Supp. 2d 921, 925 (E.D. Va. 2012) (noting probative value of “a government employee trained in the classification system”). Although potential sources of such information include the “Scattered Castles,” the “Defense Information System for Security,” and/or the “Joint Personnel Adjudication System,” it is incumbent on the Office—not the defense—to locate these materials within the prosecution team or confirm their nonexistence.

The Special Counsel’s Office must also make additional disclosures regarding the Department of Energy’s memorandum. On its face, the document supports President Trump’s defenses regarding, *inter alia*, bias in the Intelligence Community and due process violations arising from improper coordination. *See United States v. Edwards*, 887 F. Supp. 2d 63, 68 (D.D.C. 2012) (“It is not for the prosecutor to decide not to disclose information that is on its face exculpatory based on an assessment of how that evidence might be explained away or discredited at trial, or ultimately rejected by the fact finder.” (cleaned up)); *United States v. Stevens*, 2008 WL 8743218, at *5 n.1 (D.D.C. Dec. 19, 2008) (“Obviously, a statement may be exculpatory and subject to disclosure to the defense, even if the government believes the statement is untrue”). Weeks after the Office filed the Indictment, the Energy Department sought to “modif[y]” the inconvenient truth that the agency possessed records showing that President Trump still maintained a security clearance. In order to permit President Trump to prepare his defenses and present them to the jury, the Office must produce documents and communications relating to that decision, the drafting of the memorandum, any coordination with other members of the prosecution team on this issue, and the transmission of the memorandum to the prosecution team. In order to permit President Trump to further substantiate his defense relating to Intelligence Community bias, the Office should be required to disclose how the Energy Department has handled and documented the clearances of prior presidents.

At minimum, a valid security clearance undercuts that allegation. President Trump’s “Q clearance” relates most specifically to the “Undated” document charged in Count 19 bearing a “Former Restricted Data” marking, and we expect that it will serve as a basis for a motion to dismiss at the appropriate time. ECF No. 85 at 35. However, evidence of post-presidential possession of a valid security clearance between 2021 and 2023 also supports potential arguments, which President Trump is entitled to explore based on existing evidence, concerning good-faith and non-criminal states of mind relating to possession of classified materials. Accordingly, the Office should be required to produce all records relating to President Trump, including any modified or amended records, from the Energy Department’s Central Personnel Clearance Index and Clearance Action Tracking System.

D. Use Of Secure Facilities At President Trump’s Residences

The Special Counsel’s Office should be required to disclose all evidence relating to what the Office previously described to the Court as “temporary secure locations” at Mar-a-Lago, Bedminster, and Trump Tower and related SCIFs at “offsite locations.” 9/12/23 Tr. 12-13. Evidence relating to these facilities is discoverable because it refutes the Office’s assertions concerning the lack of security at Mar-a-Lago and is also relevant to the § 793(e) allegations concerning “unauthorized” possession” and “willful[]” conduct.

1. Background

The Secret Service and the White House Communications Agency (“WHCA”) made arrangements at Mar-a-Lago, Bedminster, Trump Tower, and elsewhere for President Trump to review and discuss classified information. *See* Classified Supp. Part 8. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ex. 61 at USA-00819429.

The witness [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] *Id.* at USA-00819430.

2. Discussion

President Trump will dispute at trial the contentions by the Special Counsel’s Office that Mar-a-Lago was not secure and that there was a risk that materials stored at those premises could be compromised. These contentions by the Office are foreshadowed by the Superseding Indictment, which emphasizes the facility’s commercial success in an effort to suggest that President Trump endangered national security by using it. *See, e.g.*, ECF No. 85 ¶¶ 11-12 (describing “25 guest rooms,” “hundreds of members, and 150 social events” between January 2021 and August 2022). Moreover, in response to the Office’s allegation that the Secret Service “was not responsible for the protection of TRUMP’s boxes or their contents,” *id.* ¶ 13, President Trump is entitled to present evidence regarding steps the Secret Service took to secure the residences, such as during and after his successful run in the 2016 election. This evidence is discoverable irrespective of whether President Trump was personally aware of these steps at the time they were taken. *See United States v. Safavian*, 233 F.R.D. 12, 18 (D.D.C. 2005) (reasoning that “[s]imply because the e-mails themselves were not sent to or received by [defendant] . . . does not mean that they are not material to the preparation of a defense” because such documents “may very well include information helpful to the defendant in finding witnesses or documents that could support his contention”).

E. Evidence Of Bias And Investigative Misconduct

President Trump is entitled to disclosures regarding the issues set forth below, which support his defense relating to the politically motivated and biased nature of the investigation that led to the pending charges.

The requested materials are discoverable because they support pretrial motions under the Sixth Amendment, due process principles, and other constitutional limitations on governmental conduct during a criminal investigation. *See United States v. Cizkowski*, 492 F.3d 1264, 1270 (11th Cir. 2007) (“Outrageous government conduct occurs when law enforcement obtains a conviction for conduct beyond the defendant’s predisposition by employing methods that fail to comport with due process guarantees.”); *see also United States v. Goldstein*, 989 F.3d 1178, 1202 (11th Cir. 2021) (describing potential “due process problem” where “two government arms collude in bad faith to deprive the defendant of his constitutional rights”).

The materials are also subject to the *Brady* obligations of the Special Counsel’s Office because the requested information that can be used to “attack[] the reliability of the investigation” and argue that it was “shoddy.” *Kyles v. Whitley*, 514 U.S. 419, 442 n.13, 446 (1995); *Guzman v. Sec’y, Dep’t of Corr.*, 663 F.3d 1336, 1353 (11th Cir. 2011) (reasoning that “the strategies, tactics, and defenses that the defense could have developed and presented to the trier of fact” included impeaching the “lead detective” in order to “*impugn[] . . . the character of the entire investigation*”); *Lindsey v. King*, 769 F.2d 1034, 1042 (5th Cir. 1985) (holding that *Brady* required disclosure of evidence that could be used in “discrediting, in some degree, of the police methods employed in assembling the case against him”).¹⁸

Attacking the politically motivated nature of a case is one permissible form of impeachment at trial. *See United States v. Eley*, 723 F.2d 1522, 1526 (11th Cir. 1984) (trial defense “that the Department of Justice and all law enforcement officers had set out to convict a man they

¹⁸ *Accord Bagcho*, 151 F. Supp. 3d at 70 (“Impeachment evidence can be damaging when it allows defense counsel to attack the reliability of an investigation.”); *United States v. Quinn*, 537 F. Supp. 2d 99, 116 (D.D.C. 2008) (holding that *Brady* required disclosure of evidence that would support a “pointed attack on the government’s investigation” and “uncritical reliance” on an informant).

knew to be innocent”); *United States v. Cole*, 41 F.3d 303, 311 (7th Cir. 1994) (trial defense seeking “inference of politically motivated investigation and charges”); *United States v. Chavez-Vernaza*, 844 F.2d 1368, 1371-72 (9th Cir. 1987) (trial defense that “consisted of challenges to the credibility of government witnesses and in allegations that the government was politically motivated in bringing the prosecution against him”).

For example, President Biden’s unprecedented and politically motivated abuse of President Trump’s executive privilege—in response to inquiries from the J6 Committee, *see* Exs. 8, 9, and in the subsequent purported delegation of that decision to NARA as reflected in the May 10, 2022 letter, Ex. 24—is central to these issues. *See Trump v. Thompson*, 142 S. Ct. 680 (2022) (“A former President must be able to successfully invoke the Presidential communications privilege for communications that occurred during his Presidency, even if the current President does not support the privilege claim. Concluding otherwise would eviscerate the executive privilege for Presidential communications.”) (Kavanaugh, J.). Therefore, the Special Counsel’s Office should be required to disclose the materials described below.

1. Special Counsel Coordination With The Biden Administration

Communications with prosecution team members regarding the underlying investigation by members, relatives, or associates of the Biden Administration are discoverable because they support President Trump’s defense regarding the politically motivated nature of the prosecution. *See Bowen v. Maynard*, 799 F.2d 593, 613 (10th Cir. 1986) (“A common trial tactic of defense lawyers is to discredit the caliber of the investigation *or the decision to charge the defendant*, and we may consider such use in assessing a possible *Brady* violation.” (emphasis added)).

In April 2022, the *New York Times* reported that, “as recently as late last year, Mr. Biden confided to his inner circle that he believed former President Donald J. Trump was a threat to

democracy and should be prosecuted, according to two people familiar with his comments.” Ex. 62 at 1. The article also indicated that Biden had “said privately that he wanted [the Attorney General] to act less like a ponderous judge and more like a prosecutor who is willing to take decisive action” *Id.*

On November 9, 2022, Biden was much less private. At a press conference, Biden stated: “we just have to demonstrate that he will not take power—if we—if he does run. I’m making sure he, under legitimate efforts of our Constitution, does not become the next President again.”¹⁹ On November 15, President Trump announced that he would run for a second term as President. On November 18, Biden’s Justice Department appointed Jack Smith to oversee this case.

This sequence of events supports President Trump’s defense that the charges against him are politically motivated. Many of the actions by the Special Counsel’s Office—and in particular their efforts to rush to trial based on misrepresentations about discovery and an unprecedented schedule in this case and the D.C. Case on behalf of the Biden Administration—fly in the face of Justice Manual § 9-85.500. This provision was promulgated in August 2022, just months before Jack Smith was put in place, and provides:

Actions that May Have an Impact on an Election

Federal prosecutors and agents may never select the timing of any action, including investigative steps, criminal charges, or statements, for the purpose of affecting any election, or for the purpose of giving an advantage or disadvantage to any candidate or political party. Such a purpose is inconsistent with the Department’s mission and with the Principles of Federal Prosecution. See § 9-27.260. Any action likely to raise an issue or the perception of an issue under this provision requires consultation with the Public Integrity Section, and such action shall not be taken if the Public Integrity Section advises that further consultation is required with the Deputy Attorney General or Attorney General.

¹⁹ Remarks by President Biden in Press Conference, The White House (Nov. 9, 2022), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2022/11/09/remarks-by-president-biden-in-press-conference-8> [hereinafter November 9, 2022 Biden Remarks].

Justice Manual § 9-85.500. The conduct of the Office in this case plainly violates § 9-85.500 and would, under normal circumstances, be “inconsistent with the Department’s mission.” *Id.* But these are not normal circumstances. President Biden has all but admitted that through leaks to the *New York Times* and his November 2022 press statement, and the Attorney General has acknowledged that he “personally” authorized his investigation and approved the raid on Mar-a-Lago.

Given these circumstances, any communications between members of the prosecution team and members, relatives, or associates of President Biden concerning the investigation are discoverable because they support President Trump’s defense that this prosecution is improper and politically motivated. The Special Counsel’s Office must review the electronic communications of all prosecution team members and produce any such documents. *See* Justice Manual § 9-5.002(B) (“[A]ll potentially discoverable material within the custody or control of the prosecution team should be reviewed.”).

2. Biden Administration Coordination With Georgia Prosecutors

Relatedly, communications between the Biden Administration and prosecutors in Georgia regarding any of the pending prosecutions of President Trump are similarly supportive of President Trump’s political bias defense and must be disclosed.

A January 12, 2024 congressional inquiry and other sources indicate that such materials exist. *See* Ex. 63. Specifically, Congress sent a letter to “Attorney Consultant” and “Special Assistant District Attorney” Nathan Wade regarding documents suggesting that Wade helped coordinate with the Biden Administration in 2022. One of Wade’s invoices indicates that he devoted eight hours to a “conf. with White House Counsel” on May 23, 2022. *Id.* at 2. The meeting occurred within weeks of the *New York Times* reporting on President Biden’s leaked

statement that President Trump “should be prosecuted,” Ex. 62 at 1, and around the same time that Jonathan Su, from the White House Counsel’s Office, was working with NARA to manipulate the PRA in an effort to disclose records to the FBI and the January 6th Committee.

Another of Wade’s invoices indicates that he spent eight hours in an “Interview” with “DC/White House” on November 18, 2022. Ex. 63 at 2. That is the same day that the Attorney General issued the order appointing Jack Smith, just after President Trump formally announced his candidacy in the 2024 election and is within weeks of President Biden’s public statement that he was “making sure” that President Trump “does not become the next President again.”

Under these circumstances, evidence demonstrating that parts of the Biden Administration coordinated with Georgia prosecutors to file additional politically motivated charges—while the same White House Counsel’s Office was coordinating with NARA during the investigation—supports President Trump’s defense that the Biden Administration was coordinating behind the scenes to try to eliminate President Biden’s leading political rival. The Special Counsel’s Office must produce any documents further reflecting this coordination.

3. Intelligence Community Bias

Subjective assessments by the Intelligence Community concerning the documents at issue are central to this case. The Special Counsel’s Office will be required to present testimony from Intelligence Community witnesses regarding alleged sensitivities associated with the documents, classification status, and claims about potential harm from unauthorized disclosure. One of the ways in which President Trump will challenge that testimony is by demonstrating that the

Intelligence Community has operated with a bias against him dating back to at least the 2019 whistleblower complaint relating to his call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.²⁰

Evidence of such bias is subject to *Giglio* and must be disclosed. *See United States v. Bagley*, 473 U.S. 667, 676 (1985) (“[E]vidence that the defense might have used to impeach the Government’s witnesses by showing bias or interest . . . falls within the *Brady* rule.”). This includes classified materials and supporting documentation relating to the January 6, 2021 submission to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence by the Intelligence Community Analytic Ombudsman, Dr. Barry Zulauf. *See* Ex. 64. The public portion of Dr. Zulauf’s submission responded in the affirmative to a question from the Committee regarding whether “[Office of the Director of National Intelligence] officials had politicized or attempted to politicize intelligence, exercised or attempted to exercise undue influence on the analysis, production, or dissemination process of [Office of the Director of National Intelligence]-published intelligence products related to election security.” *Id.* at 1. Dr. Zulauf’s submission stated that “the Intelligence Community recognizes where we have not met our responsibilities for objective intelligence.” *Id.* at 2.

The following day, Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe submitted a related letter to Congress regarding analytic bias in the Intelligence Community’s assessment of the 2020 election. *See* Ex. 65. Ratcliffe explained that “similar actions by Russia and China are assessed and communicated to policymakers differently,” and suggested that “political considerations or undue pressure” had influenced an Intelligence Community assessment. *Id.* at 2. Citing a dissenting view by a senior official from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence,

²⁰ *Whistleblower on Trump-Ukraine Contacts is a CIA Officer: Sources*, REUTERS (Sept. 26, 2020), <https://www.reuters.com/article/idUSKBN1WB2VF>.

Ratcliffe described “institutional pressures that have been brought to bear on others who agree with him.” *Id.* In particular, Ratcliffe emphasized Dr. Zulauf’s finding that “CIA Management took actions ‘pressuring [analysts] to withdraw their support’ from the alternative viewpoint on China ‘in an attempt to suppress it.’” *Id.*

The Court should require the Special Counsel’s Office to produce materials relating to the issues raised by Ratcliffe and Dr. Zulauf because it constitutes admissible impeachment of Intelligence Community witnesses. *See United States v. Calle*, 822 F.2d 1016, 1021 (11th Cir. 1987) (“[E]vidence that happens to include prior misconduct still may be admissible when offered to show the witness’ possible bias or self-interest in testifying.”). President Trump is entitled to evidence that CIA leadership pressured analysts to reach particular conclusions, which he can use to further develop this defense and cross-examine CIA witnesses as appropriate. For example, while President Trump will move to preclude the Office’s proffered expert testimony, evidence of this type of bias would be admissible impeachment should that motion be denied in whole or in part. Therefore, the Office should be required to produce all of the underlying materials relating to the congressional submissions by Ratcliffe and Dr. Zulauf.

4. NARA Bias And Improper Coordination

In pretrial motions and at trial, part of President Trump’s defense will rely upon evidence that NARA established itself as an arm of the prosecution rather than a neutral collector of presidential records by [May 2021]. This issue is relevant to pretrial motions to dismiss based on violations of the PRA and President Trump’s due process rights, and to the trial defenses discussed above relating to political motivations acted on by government officials that comprised their judgment and integrity.

Given these defenses, NARA's status as a member of the prosecution team, and the record evidence indicating that there are additional responsive materials, the Office should be required to collect from NARA and produce documents and communications relating to the following specific topics:

- President Trump's invocation of executive privilege in response to PRA access requests arising from inquiries by the J6 Committee, DOJ, and law enforcement;
- Consultations regarding President Trump with WH-ORM and the White House Counsel's Office;
- Referrals to prosecuting authorities, *see, e.g.*, Exs. 1, 11, 12 (FOIA), 13 (FOIA), 15, 18 at USA-00309423-26
- Efforts to [REDACTED] concerning President Trump to achieve an agreed-upon objective, Ex. 7 at USA-00383681;
- Efforts to avoid [REDACTED] to President Trump under the PRA, Ex. 2 at USA-00813152;
- Instructions or advice from the Biden Administration, prosecutors, or law enforcement to [REDACTED] to President Trump and his representatives, *see* Ex. 6 at USA-00383678;
- Drafts of the May 10, 2022 letter in which NARA claimed that President Biden had delegated authority to the agency to reject President Trump's executive privilege, and it had consulted DOJ officials in connection with that process, Ex. 24 (FOIA);
- Advance knowledge of the August 8, 2022 raid at Mar-a-Lago; and
- Responses to requests for assistance and purported grand jury subpoenas relating to President Trump, *see* Part II.B, *supra*.

The Office's production of materials from NARA should include unredacted versions of communications that have been released by NARA pursuant to FOIA in redacted form.

5. Other Prosecution Team Bias

In light of President Trump's anticipated defenses, the Special Counsel's Office should also be required to produce documents and communications reflecting bias and/or political animus

toward President Trump by members of the prosecution team. The record supporting this request includes:

- The August 4, 2022 FBI email memorializing the statement [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Ex. 35 at USA-00940276
- The related comment in Exhibit 35 that [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], particularly given the anticipated litigation over the subsequent decision by the Special Counsel's Office to breach President Trump's privilege with that attorney, *see* ECF No. 248 at 2.
- The participation in the investigation of Austin Evers from DOJ's Office of the Deputy Attorney General—which was revealed by FOIA requests—given the bias reflected in Evers' work for a partisan advocacy group called American Oversight and his November 2020 comments to *The New Yorker* that (1) he had "litigation in the can" relating to the PRA, and (2) "[t]here are a lot of senior officials in the Trump Administration who have been relying on impunity to sleep well at night, and I think it will dawn on them over the coming days and weeks that the records they leave behind will be in the hands of people they do not trust, including career public servants."²¹
- The participation in the investigation of Martin Lederman from DOJ's Office of Legal Counsel—which was also revealed via FOIA—given Lederman's social media posts reflecting animus toward President Trump, which are still available.²²

²¹ Jill Lepore, *Will Trump Burn the Evidence?*, THE NEW YORKER (Nov. 16, 2020), <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2020/11/23/will-trump-burn-the-evidence>.

²² Lederman's X account still includes biased posts from 2019 and 2020 that are highly critical of President Trump. *See, e.g.*, @marty_lederman, X (Apr. 13, 2020, 9:12 PM), https://twitter.com/marty_lederman/status/1249868100855640065 (asserting falsely that President Trump would "assert dictatorial powers"); @marty_lederman, X (Nov. 3, 2019, 8:56 PM), https://twitter.com/marty_lederman/status/1191172269927743488 (supporting failed 2019 impeachment proceedings and referring falsely to "daily degradations of the office"); @marty_lederman, X (Oct. 23, 2019, 8:54 PM), https://twitter.com/marty_lederman/status/1187170575845937153 (declaring President Trump's "utter unfitness for office"); @marty_lederman, X (Oct. 8, 2019, 9:50 PM), https://twitter.com/marty_lederman/status/1181748733425397761 (referring to President Trump as "a man utterly, and indisputably, unfit to hold office").

6. Production Of All Correspondence And/Or Communications Concerning Counsel

As the Court is aware, “the classified-documents case against former President Donald J. Trump,” has involved a number of, “attention-grabbing development[s], Mem. Op., *In re Press Application for Unsealing of In re Grand Jury Subpoena*, No. 42-gj-67 (Nov. 29, 2023), involving defense counsel. Largely, these were addressed in defense counsel’s August 14, 2023, sealed submission to the Court, ECF No. 118, in response to the Court’s August 7, 2023, Order requesting more information about the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ECF No. 101.

As if the events described in these filings were not enough, through discovery, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED].

As early as January of 2023, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Specifically, on January 30, 2023, FBI records reflect a [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Ex. 66. As this Court is no doubt aware, with respect to subpoenas for information concerning an attorney-client relationship, the Justice Manual advises:

Because of the potential effects upon an attorney-client relationship that may result from the issuance of a subpoena to an attorney for information relating to the attorney’s representation of a client, the Department exercises close control over . . . subpoenas to attorneys for information relating to the representation of clients.

Justice Manual § 9-13.410. Specifically, such subpoenas, “must first be authorized by the Assistant Attorney General or a Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division

before they may issue, unless the circumstances warrant application of . . .” an exception not relevant here. *Id.*

Here, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. In a voluntary interview with [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. One telling colloquy proceeds as follows:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ex. 67 (excerpted).

So interested is the Office in [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. Then, in a subsequent interview in April of 2023, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. The Office observes, with respect to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]:

[REDACTED]

Ex. 68 (excerpted).

Although the Office may argue that neither Assistant Attorney General or Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division approval were required for its [REDACTED] [REDACTED] because it was not seeking information protected by the attorney-client privilege, their request that [REDACTED] [REDACTED], belie any such suggestion. Considering all the facts and circumstances surrounding the Office's interactions with Mr. Woodward, including what has now been learned in discovery, it is clear the Office has long been interested in Mr. Woodward's representation. It is therefore likely that the Office is in possession of additional communications concerning Mr. Woodward, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Because such communications would be material to the defense of this action, the Office should be compelled to produce the same or confirm, in writing, that no such materials exist.

F. Production Of All Correspondence And/Or Communications Concerning The Search Of Mar-A-Lago

In its search of Mar-a-Lago, the Office searched President Trump's personal residence. When she testified before the Grand Jury, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ex. 69 at USA-00812500 (excerpted). The significance of this oversight by the Office in its search of Mar-a-Lago cannot be overstated. Specifically, one of the manner and means of the conspiracy with which the defendants are charged includes, "moving boxes of documents to conceal them

from Trump Attorney 1, the FBI, and the grand jury[.]” Superseding Indictment at 39 ¶ 97(b), ECF No. 85 (emphasis added). The only time the FBI searched for classified materials was during the August 8, 2022, search of Mar-a-Lago. It follows, then, that the Office will attempt to argue that boxes of classified materials were moved in and around the President’s residence for the purpose of concealing the same from the FBI during its search. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is critical to any such argument.

Moreover, we know from communications produced through discovery that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ex. 70 at USA-00940279-80. It is inexplicable that members of the FBI (let alone the Office) would have no communications concerning the decision not to search an area of the President’s residence – [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] And such communications have infamously not been disclosed in recent high-profile cases. Accordingly, the SCO should be compelled to search for and produce all correspondence about the search of Mar-a-Lago on August 8, 2022.

G. Production Of CCTV Video Footage

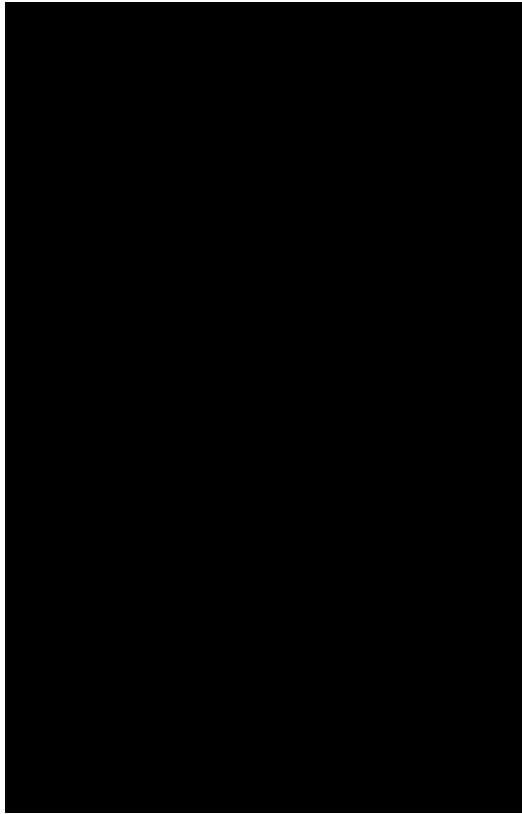
Central to the Special Counsel’s prosecution of President Trump and Messrs. Nauta and De Oliveira is the allegation that the three conspired to hide classified documents from investigators. Specifically, one of the manner and means of the conspiracy with which the defendants are charged includes, “moving boxes of documents to conceal them from Trump

Attorney 1, *the FBI*, and the grand jury[.]” Superseding Indictment at 39 ¶ 97(b), ECF No. 85 (emphasis added) (Count 33). The Superseding Indictment also alleges that President Trump and Mr. Nauta “misled Trump Attorney 1 by moving boxes that contained documents with classified markings so that Trump Attorney 1 would not find the documents and produce them to a federal grand jury.” *Id.* at ¶¶ 99, 101 (Counts 35 and 36); and that President Trump and Mr. Nauta, “hid. Concealed, and covered up from” the FBI and the grand jury, “[President Trump’s] continued possession of documents with classified markings,” *Id.* at ¶¶ 103, 105 (Counts 36 and 37).

This purported “concealment” allegedly occurred in May and June of 2022 when, in the days leading up to Trump Attorney 1’s scheduled review of boxes in a storage room purportedly containing documents with classified markings, Mr. Nauta is alleged to have removed, “approximately 64 boxes from the storage room to [President Trump’s] residence, and [Messrs. Nauta and De Oliveira] brought [returned] to the storage room only approximately 30 boxes.” *Id.* ¶ 63. As evidence of the fact that Trump Attorney 1 did not review all the boxes purportedly containing documents with classified markings, the Special Counsel has alleged that when the storage room was inspected by Special Counsel attorney Jay Bratt on June 3, 2022, it differed in appearance from how the storage room was depicted in November of 2021. *Id.* ¶ 40. *See also In re Search Warrant*, Attachment A, No. 23-mj-8332-BER (S.D. Fl. Aug. 5, 2022) (describing how DOJ Counsel – Jay Bratt – were permitted access to the storage room and observed that fewer boxes were present than had been previously depicted). Thereafter, the Superseding Indictment alleges, when the storage room was searched by the FBI on August 8, 2022, documents with classified markings were discovered that, the Superseding Indictment insinuates, were not present when Trump Attorney 1 searched the storage room in June of 2022 (of note, the Superseding Indictment does not allege that boxes of the type found in the storage room were recovered

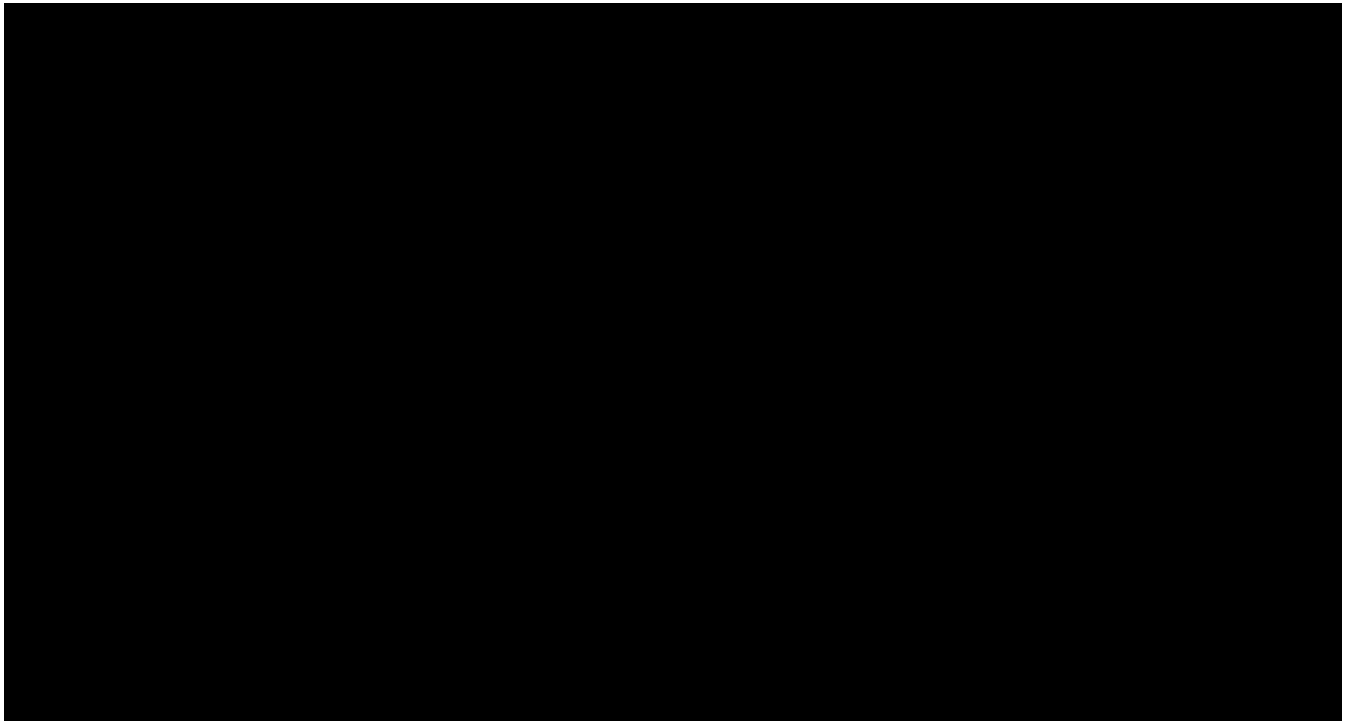
anywhere other than in the storage room). Therefore, critical to the defense of the Special Counsel's allegations is whether more boxes were removed from the storage room than were returned to the storage room prior to Trump Attorney 1's review of those boxes, and, assuming the documents with classified markings that were recovered by the FBI during its search of the storage room were moved to the storage room at some point between the June 3 review by Trump Attorney 1 and the August 8 search by the FBI, how, why, and who moved the boxes to the storage room during that time. Put simply, the CCTV footage in this matter is central to the Special Counsel's prosecution and the defense thereto. However, the Special Counsel's production of CCTV has been unworkable and precludes defense counsel from having meaningful access to this crucial discovery.

At the outset, in its initial production of discovery in this case, the Special Counsel produced roughly 80 terabytes of data consisting of the CCTV footage obtained in its investigation. In its July 6, 2023, cover letter accompanying the production, the Special Counsel indicated that the CCTV footage was contained in 21 separate folders, as depicted in the below excerpt of their correspondence:

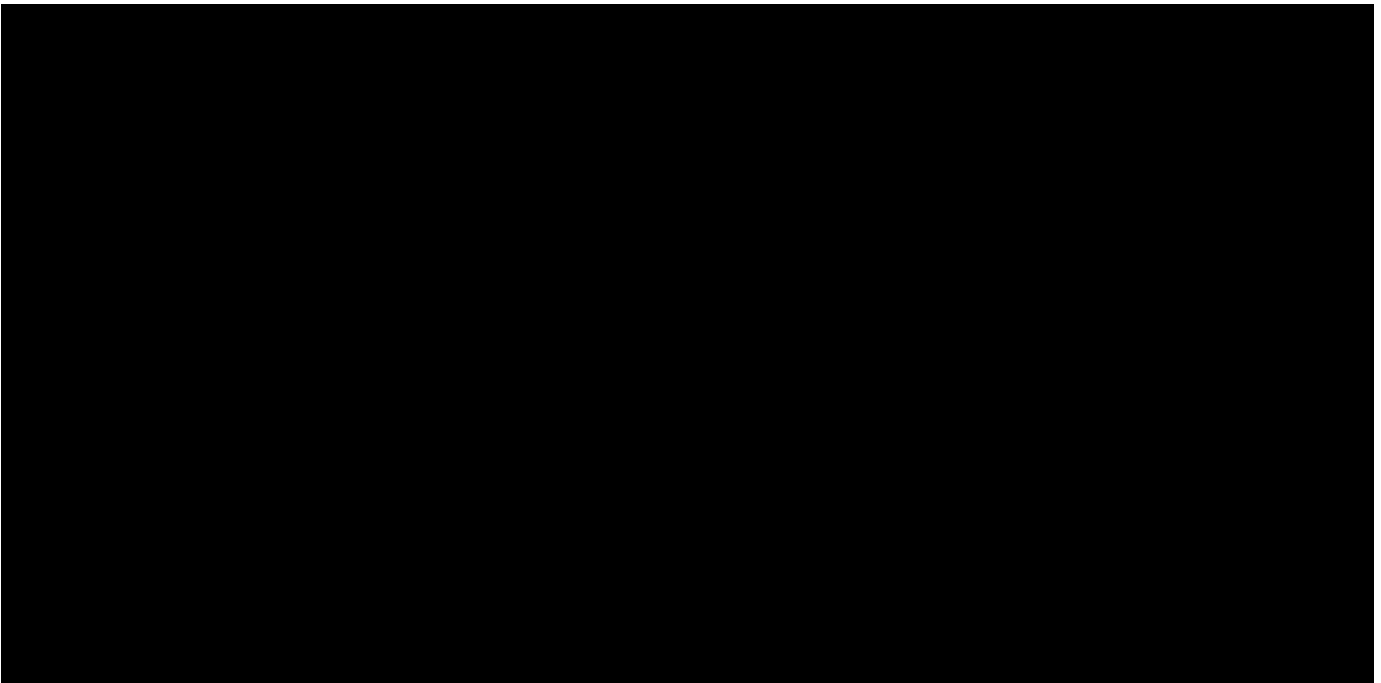


Each of these folders contained hundreds of individual files that had been compressed using proprietary software, 7-Zip.²³ Decompressing these folders required hundreds of hours. Below is a screenshot of the extraction of folder “1B6” from October of 2023:

²³ <https://www.7-zip.org/>.



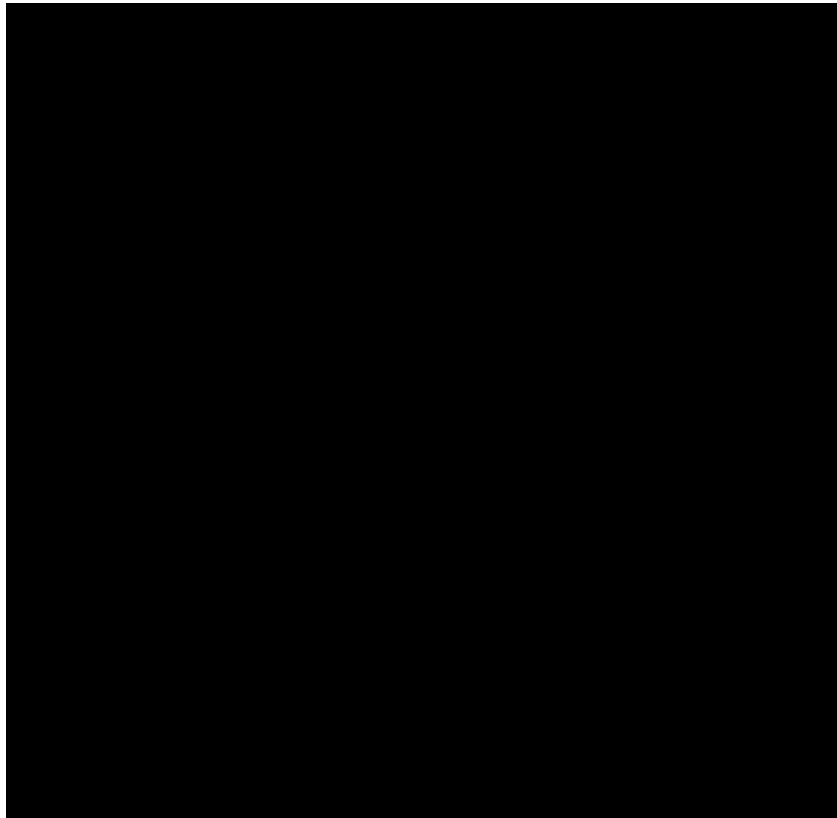
And below is a screenshot of the extraction of folder “1B18” from November of 2023:



Of note, defense counsel learned that these files were not produced to the Special Counsel’s office in such a compressed format. Rather, the Special Counsel compressed them and then produced them to defense counsel in a manner requiring hundreds of hours of extraction time before the video could be reviewed.

In addition, the Special Counsel’s production included, “proprietary players produced by the camera system vendors . . . [and such video] will play exclusively in the player manufactured by the same company.” Upon extraction of the players, however, defense counsel continued to have issues playing the video. Defense counsel for Mr. Nauta was not able to launch the proprietary video player at all. Defense counsel encountered the below errors, which were shared with the Special Counsel on January 11, 2024, but to date has received no response.





Counsel for Mr. De Oliveira encountered similar issues. Initially, in November of 2023, the Special Counsel directed counsel for Mr. De Oliveira to consult tech support with Milestone, the company that created the software that captures CCTV footage at Mar-a-Lago. In turn, Milestone tech support advised defense counsel that the Special Counsel's production lacked required technical configuration files. When defense counsel advised the Special Counsel of this fact, the Special Counsel advised that: "The FBI also initially had difficulty viewing some videos" and advised that to make the video work, additional files would need to be copied in each of the individual folders (of which there are thousands) provided by the Special Counsel. Thus, from its initial receipt of the video that is crucial to the defense of this case, the Special Counsel was aware of issues viewing the video.

To that end, internal documentation of the Special Counsel's receipt and processing of the CCTV confirm that defense counsel was not provided with video that defense counsel can readily access. For example, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] See USA-01286032 (emphasis added).

Accordingly, this Court should compel the production of CCTV footage in a manner that is readily accessible to defense counsel. The government's obligation to produce exculpatory evidence is supplemented by Rule 16 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, which seeks to "prescribe the minimum amount of discovery to which the parties are entitled, and leaves intact a court's discretion to grant or deny the 'broader' discovery requests of a criminal defendant." *United States v. Jordan*, 316 F.3d 1215, 1249 n.69 (11th Cir. 2003) (internal quotation marks omitted) (citing Notes of Advisory Committee on 1974 Amendments to Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Fed. R. Crim. P. Rule 16). It defies credulity to suggest that the Special Counsel has satisfied its burden by first altering the raw data it received and then knowingly producing it in a way that rendered unreviewable. We know the Special Counsel has rendered the video viewable, because it included key sections of that video in its production of video to the defendants. The Special Counsel should be required to produce all the video it obtained in this viewable format.²⁴

²⁴ Defendants also respectfully request that the Court order the Special Counsel's Office to produce unredacted copies of discovery previously produced to Defendants in redacted form. As the Court is aware, nothing in Rule 16 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure authorizes the Office to unilaterally produce redacted material. Rather, Rule 16 authorizes the Court to, "for good cause, deny, restrict, or defer discovery or inspection, or grant other appropriate relief."

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, President Trump respectfully submits that the Court should: (1) following any necessary hearing to resolve factual disputes, issue an order setting the appropriate scope of the prosecution team in this case for purposes of the discovery obligations of the Special Counsel's Office, and (2) compel the Office to disclose the information requested in this brief and the accompanying Classified Supplement.

Dated: January 16, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Todd Blanche

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Coral Gables, Florida 33134
(305) 677-2707

Counsel for President Donald J. Trump

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Christopher M. Kise, certify that on January 16, 2024, I electronically filed the foregoing document with the Clerk of Court using CM/ECF.

/s/ Christopher M. Kise
Christopher M. Kise

Ex. 1

(Under Seal)

Ex. 2

(Under Seal)

Ex. 3

(Under Seal)

Ex. 4

(Under Seal)

Ex. 5

(Under Seal)

Ex. 6

(Under Seal)

Ex. 7

(Under Seal)

Ex. 8

(Under Seal)

Ex. 9

(Under Seal)

Ex. 10

(Under Seal)

Ex. 11

(Under Seal)

Ex. 12

(b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)(c)
From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(3)>
Sent time: 01/26/2022 08:04:05 AM
To: John Simms <(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)>
Cc: Jason Metrick <(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)>; Brett Baker <(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)>; Thomas A Monheim <(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(3)>
Subject: RE: Request for a meeting regarding potential high level spillage

Good Morning,

Tom has time tomorrow at 0800 or 1:30 to join via Google Meet.

From: Thomas A Monheim <(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(3)>
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 7:51 AM
To: John Simms <(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)> (b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)(c)
Cc: Jason Metrick <(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)>; Brett Baker <(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(3)>
Subject: Re: Request for a meeting regarding potential high level spillage
(b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)(c)

Oops, sorry. Further evidence of why I need (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) help.

Since I will be working in the office today, I think we would need to just do a teleconference. I will be working from home tomorrow and could do Google meet. My days are fairly full but (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) can make some time by rearranging meetings if necessary. Thanks.
(b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)(c)

From: "John Simms" <(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)>
Date: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 6:26:14 AM
To: "Thomas A Monheim" <(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(3)>
Cc: "Jason Metrick" <(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)>, "Brett Baker" <(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)>
Subject: Re: Request for a meeting regarding potential high level spillage

Sir,
(b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)(c)

I did not see (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) email address anywhere, could you please forward it to me, or this email to them? Our agency uses Google Meet and I can send out an invite if that works for you. Our IG has a meeting 8:30 to 12:10, but he said he could make it work if the only time you could meet was in that block. Please just let me know if Google Meet works and what time could work for you. Thank you, sir.

Respectfully,

John Simms
Counsel to the Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
National Archives and Records Administration
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

CAUTION! This message may contain Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) that requires safeguarding or dissemination controls, in part because it may contain information protected by the attorney-client, attorney work product, deliberative process, or other privilege; Inspector General Protected information (PRIIG); Investigation information (INV); General Law Enforcement information (LEI); Law Enforcement - Communications (LCOMM); privacy information; and/or information exempted from release under the Freedom of Information Act or Privacy Act. Do not disseminate without the approval of the NARA IG. If received in error, please notify the sender by reply e-mail and delete all copies of this message.

On Tue, Jan 25, 2022 at 6:56 PM Thomas A Monheim <(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(3)> wrote:

Yes, I can make time.
(b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7)(c)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (copied) can help facilitate, thanks.

From: "John Simms" <(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)>
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 5:06:51 PM

To: Thomas A. Meenehan <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (3)>
Cc: "Jason Metrick" <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>, "Brett Baker" <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>
Subject: Request for a meeting regarding potential high level spillage

Sir,

Our agency just gave us a quick brief on what appears to be a very high level potential spillage and records management issue. When they notified the DoJ the office of the Deputy Attorney General told them to contact us and your office. Do you have some time tomorrow or the next day to meet virtually? Please let us know.

Respectfully,

John Simms
Counsel to the Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
National Archives and Records Administration
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

CAUTION! This message may contain Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) that requires safeguarding or dissemination controls, in part because it may contain information protected by the attorney-client, attorney work product, deliberative process, or other privilege; Inspector General Protected information (PRIIG); Investigation information (INV); General Law Enforcement information (LEI); Law Enforcement - Communications (LCOMM); privacy information; and/or information exempted from release under the Freedom of Information Act or Privacy Act. Do not disseminate without the approval of the NARA IG. If received in error, please notify the sender by reply e-mail and delete all copies of this message.

Ex. 13

John Simms

From: Windom, Thomas (USADC) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 11:49 AM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Jason Metrick
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Issue re Potential Destruction of Presidential Records

Sure thing
tw

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 11:40 AM
To: Windom, Thomas (USADC) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Jason Metrick (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Issue re Potential Destruction of Presidential Records

Hi Thomas,

Might we have a moment to discuss the below matter concerning (b) (5) with you tomorrow as well?

Thanks,

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Special Agent in Charge
NARA-OIG

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

INSPECTOR GENERAL SENSITIVE INFORMATION

This email including any attachments is intended only for authorized recipients. Recipients may not further disseminate this information without the express permission of the sender or other Office of the Inspector General personnel. This email may contain Inspector General sensitive information that is confidential, sensitive, work product, attorney-client privileged, or protected by Federal law, including protection from public disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552. Accordingly, the use, dissemination, distribution or reproduction of this information to or by unauthorized or unintended recipients may be unlawful. If you have received this email in error, please notify us immediately by return email, and destroy all copies of the email received in error.

From: GaryM Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 28, 2022 6:08:33 PM
To: Brett Baker (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Jason Metrick (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Simms, John (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>
Subject: Issue re Potential Destruction of Presidential Records

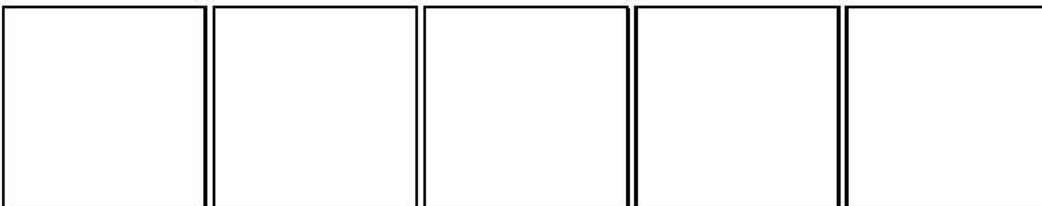
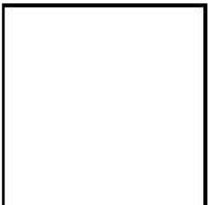
(b) (5), (b) (7)(A)

(b) (5), (b) (7)(A)

Please let us know if you think this is a matter that warrants further consideration (b) (5), (b) (7)(A)

Thanks,
Gary

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



Ex. 14

From: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Sent time: 02/09/2022 02:25:05 PM
To: Ferriero, David <david.ferriero@nara.gov>; Wall, Debra <debra.wall@nara.gov>; Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Stern, GaryM <garym.stern@nara.gov>; John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>; Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>; NARA Executive Secretariat <ExecSec@nara.gov>; Donius, Susan <susan.donius@nara.gov>; Laster, John <john.laster@nara.gov>
BCc: (b) (6) @nara.gov
Subject: Fwd: Letter for The Honorable David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration
Attachments: 2022-02-09.CBM to Ferriero-NARA re Trump Mar-a-Lago.pdf

Here is the letter we knew was coming.....I have acknowledged our receipt of this letter.

John

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Date: Wed, Feb 9, 2022 at 2:17 PM
Subject: Letter for The Honorable David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration
To: john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, garym.stern@nara.gov <garym.stern@nara.gov>, congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>
Cc: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

Hello—

Please see the attached letter from Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney, Committee on Oversight and Reform, for The Honorable David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration.

Please acknowledge receipt of the letter. Thank you.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Staff Assistant | Committee on Oversight & Reform

Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney

(b) (6)

--

John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs

15B000116

National Archives and Records Administration

700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20408-0001

PH: 202-357-6832

Cell: (b) (6)

Fax: 202-3575959

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
 MINORITY (202) 225-5074
<https://oversight.house.gov>

February 9, 2022

The Honorable David S. Ferriero
 Archivist of the United States
 National Archives and Records Administration
 8601 Adelphi Road
 College Park, MD 20740-6001

Dear Mr. Ferriero:

The Committee is seeking information about the 15 boxes of presidential records that the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) recently recovered from former President Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence. I am deeply concerned that these records were not provided to NARA promptly at the end of the Trump Administration and that they appear to have been removed from the White House in violation of the Presidential Records Act (PRA). I am also concerned by recent reports that while in office, President Trump repeatedly attempted to destroy presidential records, which could constitute additional serious violations of the PRA.

The PRA preserves the records made by a sitting president, while giving legal ownership of those records to the American people.¹ Congress enacted the PRA in response to President Nixon's attempts to destroy presidential records during the Watergate scandal.

President Trump is required not only to preserve presidential records, but to turn them over to the National Archives at the end of his presidential term. The PRA specifically states:

Upon the conclusion of a President's term of office, or if a President serves consecutive terms upon the conclusion of the last term, **the Archivist of the United States shall assume responsibility for the custody, control, and preservation of, and access to, the Presidential records of that President.**²

On February 7, 2022, the *Washington Post* reported that former President Trump improperly removed 15 boxes of records from the White House and transported them to his Mar-a-Lago residence. These boxes reportedly contained correspondence and letters from world leaders, including correspondence with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, and a letter President

¹ See 44 U.S.C. §§ 2201–2209.

² 44 U.S.C. § 2203(g)(1) (emphasis added).

The Honorable David S. Ferriero
Page 2

Obama left for his successor.³ The records recovered from Mar-a-Lago also reportedly include several newspaper clippings. A previous Committee investigation revealed that President Trump wrote notes on press clippings, which could mean that even those clippings were likely presidential records.⁴

On February 5, 2022, it was reported that while in office, former President Trump “tore up briefings and schedules, articles and letters, memos both sensitive and mundane.”⁵

Removing or concealing government records is a criminal offense punishable by up to three years in prison. Former National Security Advisor Sandy Berger, for example, was prosecuted for taking classified documents from NARA.⁶ Former President Trump and his senior advisors must also be held accountable for any violations of the law. Republicans in Congress obsessively investigated former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for her use of a private email server for official communications. Former President Trump’s conduct, in contrast, involves a former president potentially violating a criminal law by intentionally removing records, including communications with a foreign leader, from the White House and reportedly attempting to destroy records by tearing them up.

In order for the Committee to examine the extent and impact of former President Trump’s violations of the PRA, please provide responses to the following requests by February 18, 2022:

1. Did NARA ask the representatives of former President Trump about missing records prior to the 15 boxes being identified? If so, what information was provided in response?
2. Has NARA conducted an inventory of the contents of the boxes recovered from Mar-a-Lago?
3. Please provide a detailed description of the contents of the recovered boxes, including any inventory prepared by NARA of the contents of the boxes. If an inventory has not yet been completed, please provide an estimate of when such an inventory will be completed.

³ *National Archives Had to Retrieve Trump White House Records from Mar-a-Lago*, Washington Post (Feb. 7, 2022) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/02/07/trump-records-mar-a-lago/).

⁴ Committee on Oversight and Reform, *Press Release: Committee Chairs Release New Documents Showing Mar-a-Lago Trio Violated Transparency Law and Improperly Influenced Veterans Policies Under President Trump* (Sept. 27, 2021) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/news/press-releases/committee-chairs-release-new-documents-showing-mar-a-lago-trio-violated>).

⁵ *“He Never Stopped Ripping Things Up”: Inside Trump’s Relentless Document Destruction Habits*, Washington Post (Feb. 5, 2022) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/02/05/trump-ripping-documents/).

⁶ See e.g., National Archives and Records Administration, *Notable Thefts from the National Archives* (online at www.archives.gov/research/recover/notable-thefts.html) (accessed Feb. 8, 2022).

The Honorable David S. Ferriero
Page 2

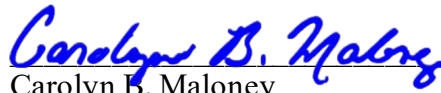
4. Are the contents of the boxes of records recovered by NARA undergoing a review to determine if they contain classified information? If so, who is conducting that review and has any classified information been found?
5. Is NARA aware of any additional presidential records from the Trump Administration that may be missing or not yet in NARA's possession?
6. What efforts has NARA taken, and is NARA taking, to ensure that any additional records that have not been turned over to NARA are not lost or destroyed?
7. Has the Archivist notified the Attorney General that former President Trump removed presidential records from the White House? If not, why not?
8. Is NARA aware of presidential records that President Trump destroyed or attempted to destroy without the approval of NARA? If so, please provide a detailed description of such records, the actions taken by President Trump to destroy or attempt to destroy them, and any actions NARA has taken to recover or preserve these documents.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. In addition, House Rule X states that the Committee on Oversight and Reform has jurisdiction to "study on a continuing basis the operation of Government activities at all levels, including the Executive Office of the President."

An attachment to this letter provides additional instructions for responding to the Committee's request. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact the Oversight Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Ranking Member

Responding to Oversight Committee Document Requests

1. In complying with this request, produce all responsive documents that are in your possession, custody, or control, whether held by you or your past or present agents, employees, and representatives acting on your behalf. Produce all documents that you have a legal right to obtain, that you have a right to copy, or to which you have access, as well as documents that you have placed in the temporary possession, custody, or control of any third party.
2. Requested documents, and all documents reasonably related to the requested documents, should not be destroyed, altered, removed, transferred, or otherwise made inaccessible to the Committee.
3. In the event that any entity, organization, or individual denoted in this request is or has been known by any name other than that herein denoted, the request shall be read also to include that alternative identification.
4. The Committee's preference is to receive documents in electronic form (i.e., CD, memory stick, thumb drive, or secure file transfer) in lieu of paper productions.
5. Documents produced in electronic format should be organized, identified, and indexed electronically.
6. Electronic document productions should be prepared according to the following standards:
 - a. The production should consist of single page Tagged Image File ("TIF"), files accompanied by a Concordance-format load file, an Opticon reference file, and a file defining the fields and character lengths of the load file.
 - b. Document numbers in the load file should match document Bates numbers and TIF file names.
 - c. If the production is completed through a series of multiple partial productions, field names and file order in all load files should match.
 - d. All electronic documents produced to the Committee should include the following fields of metadata specific to each document, and no modifications should be made to the original metadata:

BEGDOC, ENDDOC, TEXT, BEGATTACH, ENDATTACH, PAGECOUNT, CUSTODIAN, RECORDTYPE, DATE, TIME, SENTDATE, SENTTIME, BEGINDATE, BEGINTIME, ENDDATE, ENDTIME, AUTHOR, FROM, CC, TO, BCC, SUBJECT, TITLE, FILENAME, FILEEXT, FILESIZE, DATECREATED, TIMECREATED, DATELASTMOD, TIMELASTMOD,

INTMSGID, INTMSGHEADER, NATIVELINK, INTFILPATH, EXCEPTION, BEGATTACH.

7. Documents produced to the Committee should include an index describing the contents of the production. To the extent more than one CD, hard drive, memory stick, thumb drive, zip file, box, or folder is produced, each should contain an index describing its contents.
8. Documents produced in response to this request shall be produced together with copies of file labels, dividers, or identifying markers with which they were associated when the request was served.
9. When you produce documents, you should identify the paragraph(s) or request(s) in the Committee's letter to which the documents respond.
10. The fact that any other person or entity also possesses non-identical or identical copies of the same documents shall not be a basis to withhold any information.
11. The pendency of or potential for litigation shall not be a basis to withhold any information.
12. In accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(d), the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and any statutory exemptions to FOIA shall not be a basis for withholding any information.
13. Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552a(b)(9), the Privacy Act shall not be a basis for withholding information.
14. If compliance with the request cannot be made in full by the specified return date, compliance shall be made to the extent possible by that date. An explanation of why full compliance is not possible shall be provided along with any partial production.
15. In the event that a document is withheld on the basis of privilege, provide a privilege log containing the following information concerning any such document: (a) every privilege asserted; (b) the type of document; (c) the general subject matter; (d) the date, author, addressee, and any other recipient(s); (e) the relationship of the author and addressee to each other; and (f) the basis for the privilege(s) asserted.
16. If any document responsive to this request was, but no longer is, in your possession, custody, or control, identify the document (by date, author, subject, and recipients), and explain the circumstances under which the document ceased to be in your possession, custody, or control.
17. If a date or other descriptive detail set forth in this request referring to a document is inaccurate, but the actual date or other descriptive detail is known to you or is otherwise apparent from the context of the request, produce all documents that would be responsive as if the date or other descriptive detail were correct.

18. This request is continuing in nature and applies to any newly-discovered information. Any record, document, compilation of data, or information not produced because it has not been located or discovered by the return date shall be produced immediately upon subsequent location or discovery.
19. All documents shall be Bates-stamped sequentially and produced sequentially.
20. Two sets of each production shall be delivered, one set to the Majority Staff and one set to the Minority Staff. When documents are produced to the Committee, production sets shall be delivered to the Majority Staff in Room 2157 of the Rayburn House Office Building and the Minority Staff in Room 2105 of the Rayburn House Office Building.
21. Upon completion of the production, submit a written certification, signed by you or your counsel, stating that: (1) a diligent search has been completed of all documents in your possession, custody, or control that reasonably could contain responsive documents; and (2) all documents located during the search that are responsive have been produced to the Committee.

Definitions

1. The term “document” means any written, recorded, or graphic matter of any nature whatsoever, regardless of how recorded, and whether original or copy, including, but not limited to, the following: memoranda, reports, expense reports, books, manuals, instructions, financial reports, data, working papers, records, notes, letters, notices, confirmations, telegrams, receipts, appraisals, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, prospectuses, communications, electronic mail (email), contracts, cables, notations of any type of conversation, telephone call, meeting or other inter-office or intra-office communication, bulletins, printed matter, computer printouts, teletypes, invoices, transcripts, diaries, analyses, returns, summaries, minutes, bills, accounts, estimates, projections, comparisons, messages, correspondence, press releases, circulars, financial statements, reviews, opinions, offers, studies and investigations, questionnaires and surveys, and work sheets (and all drafts, preliminary versions, alterations, modifications, revisions, changes, and amendments of any of the foregoing, as well as any attachments or appendices thereto), and graphic or oral records or representations of any kind (including without limitation, photographs, charts, graphs, microfiche, microfilm, videotape, recordings and motion pictures), and electronic, mechanical, and electric records or representations of any kind (including, without limitation, tapes, cassettes, disks, and recordings) and other written, printed, typed, or other graphic or recorded matter of any kind or nature, however produced or reproduced, and whether preserved in writing, film, tape, disk, videotape, or otherwise. A document bearing any notation not a part of the original text is to be considered a separate document. A draft or non-identical copy is a separate document within the meaning of this term.
2. The term “communication” means each manner or means of disclosure or exchange of information, regardless of means utilized, whether oral, electronic, by document or otherwise, and whether in a meeting, by telephone, facsimile, mail, releases, electronic

message including email (desktop or mobile device), text message, instant message, MMS or SMS message, message application, or otherwise.

3. The terms “and” and “or” shall be construed broadly and either conjunctively or disjunctively to bring within the scope of this request any information that might otherwise be construed to be outside its scope. The singular includes plural number, and vice versa. The masculine includes the feminine and neutral genders.
4. The term “including” shall be construed broadly to mean “including, but not limited to.”
5. The term “Company” means the named legal entity as well as any units, firms, partnerships, associations, corporations, limited liability companies, trusts, subsidiaries, affiliates, divisions, departments, branches, joint ventures, proprietorships, syndicates, or other legal, business or government entities over which the named legal entity exercises control or in which the named entity has any ownership whatsoever.
6. The term “identify,” when used in a question about individuals, means to provide the following information: (a) the individual’s complete name and title; (b) the individual’s business or personal address and phone number; and (c) any and all known aliases.
7. The term “related to” or “referring or relating to,” with respect to any given subject, means anything that constitutes, contains, embodies, reflects, identifies, states, refers to, deals with, or is pertinent to that subject in any manner whatsoever.
8. The term “employee” means any past or present agent, borrowed employee, casual employee, consultant, contractor, de facto employee, detailee, fellow, independent contractor, intern, joint adventurer, loaned employee, officer, part-time employee, permanent employee, provisional employee, special government employee, subcontractor, or any other type of service provider.
9. The term “individual” means all natural persons and all persons or entities acting on their behalf.

Ex. 15

(Under Seal)

Ex. 16

From: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>
Sent time: 02/09/2022 03:03:55 PM
To: John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Ferriero, David <david.ferriero@nara.gov>; Wall, Debra <debra.wall@nara.gov>; Stern, GaryM <garym.stern@nara.gov>; John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>; Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>; NARA Executive Secretariat <ExecSec@nara.gov>; Donius, Susan <susan.donius@nara.gov>; Laster, John <john.laster@nara.gov>
Cc: (b) (6) @nara.gov
Subject: Re: Letter for The Honorable David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration

Thanks John. Gary and I have alerted NARA OIG, ODNI OIG, and DOJ.

Jay

On Wed, Feb 9, 2022 at 2:25 PM John Hamilton <john.hamilton@nara.gov> wrote:

Here is the letter we knew was coming.....I have acknowledged our receipt of this letter.

John

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

Date: Wed, Feb 9, 2022 at 2:17 PM

Subject: Letter for The Honorable David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration

To: john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, garym.stern@nara.gov <garym.stern@nara.gov>, congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>

Cc: (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>, (b) (6) <(b) (6)>

Hello—

Please see the attached letter from Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney, Committee on Oversight and Reform, for The Honorable David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration.

Please acknowledge receipt of the letter. Thank you.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Staff Assistant | Committee on Oversight & Reform

Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney

(b) (6)

--

John O. Hamilton
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
PH: 202-357-6832
Cell: (b) (6)
Fax: 202-3575959

Ex. 17

John Simms

From: Keller, John (CRM) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 1:52 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Jason Metrick; Bratt, Jay (NSD)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Issue re Potential Destruction of Presidential Records
Signed By: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Thank you for the email, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and Jason. I appreciated you taking the time to discuss these matters in more detail in our virtual meeting this afternoon. (b) (5), (b) (7)(A)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Please do not hesitate to reach out to discuss these or related matters further.

-John

John D. Keller
Principal Deputy Chief
Public Integrity Section
United States Department of Justice
1301 New York Ave. NW | Washington, D.C. 20350
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (Desk) | (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (Cell)

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 5:07 PM
To: Keller, John (CRM) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Jason Metrick (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Re: Issue re Potential Destruction of Presidential Records

Mr. Keller,

(b) (5), (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(A)

[REDACTED]

(b) (5), (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(A)

Respectfully,

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Special Agent in Charge

NARA-OIG

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

INSPECTOR GENERAL SENSITIVE INFORMATION

This email including any attachments is intended only for authorized recipients. Recipients may not further disseminate this information without the express permission of the sender or other Office of the Inspector General personnel. This email may contain Inspector General sensitive information that is confidential, sensitive, work product, attorney-client privileged, or protected by Federal law, including protection from public disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552. Accordingly, the use, dissemination, distribution or reproduction of this information to or by unauthorized or unintended recipients may be unlawful. If you have received this email in error, please notify us immediately by return email, and destroy all copies of the email received in error.

Ex. 18

(Under Seal)

Ex. 19

(Under Seal)

Ex. 20

(Under Seal)

Ex. 21

(Under Seal)

Ex. 22

MONDAY, FEB 28



Oliver Potts Feb 28, 2022, 3:19 PM

hi Jay...any headway on getting WH to consider fate of the books with us?



William Bosanko Feb 28, 2022, 3:20 PM

None - the 15 boxes from mar-a-lago have consumed all of our discussions

DO you have bullets or something I can crib from to send an email



Oliver Potts Feb 28, 2022, 3:21 PM

definitely...will send



William Bosanko Feb 28, 2022, 3:21 PM

Thx! That will help

Ex. 23

(Under Seal)

Ex. 24



Archivist of the
United States

May 10, 2022

Evan Corcoran
Silverman Thompson
400 East Pratt Street
Suite 900
Baltimore, MD 21202
By Email

Dear Mr. Corcoran:

I write in response to your letters of April 29, 2022, and May 1, 2022, requesting that the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) further delay the disclosure to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of the records that were the subject of our April 12, 2022 notification to an authorized representative of former President Trump.

As you are no doubt aware, NARA had ongoing communications with the former President's representatives throughout 2021 about what appeared to be missing Presidential records, which resulted in the transfer of 15 boxes of records to NARA in January 2022. In its initial review of materials within those boxes, NARA identified items marked as classified national security information, up to the level of Top Secret and including Sensitive Compartmented Information and Special Access Program materials. NARA informed the Department of Justice about that discovery, which prompted the Department to ask the President to request that NARA provide the FBI with access to the boxes at issue so that the FBI and others in the Intelligence Community could examine them. On April 11, 2022, the White House Counsel's Office—affirming a request from the Department of Justice supported by an FBI letterhead memorandum—formally transmitted a request that NARA provide the FBI access to the 15 boxes for its review within seven days, with the possibility that the FBI might request copies of specific documents following its review of the boxes.

Although the Presidential Records Act (PRA) generally restricts access to Presidential records in NARA's custody for several years after the conclusion of a President's tenure in office, the statute further provides that, "subject to any rights, defenses, or privileges which the United States or any agency or person may invoke," such records "shall be made available . . . to an incumbent President if such records contain information that is needed for the conduct of current business of the incumbent President's office and that is not otherwise available." 44 U.S.C. §

Debra Steidel Wall • T: 202.357.5900 • F: 202.357.5901 • debra.wall@nara.gov

National Archives and Records Administration • 8601 Adelphi Road • College Park, MD 20740 • www.archives.gov

2205(2)(B). Those conditions are satisfied here. As the Department of Justice's National Security Division explained to you on April 29, 2022:

There are important national security interests in the FBI and others in the Intelligence Community getting access to these materials. According to NARA, among the materials in the boxes are over 100 documents with classification markings, comprising more than 700 pages. Some include the highest levels of classification, including Special Access Program (SAP) materials. Access to the materials is not only necessary for purposes of our ongoing criminal investigation, but the Executive Branch must also conduct an assessment of the potential damage resulting from the apparent manner in which these materials were stored and transported and take any necessary remedial steps. Accordingly, we are seeking immediate access to these materials so as to facilitate the necessary assessments that need to be conducted within the Executive Branch.

We advised you in writing on April 12 that, "in light of the urgency of this request," we planned to "provid[e] access to the FBI next week," i.e., the week of April 18. *See* Exec. Order No. 13,489, § 2(b), 74 Fed. Reg. 4,669 (Jan. 21, 2009) (providing a 30-day default before disclosure but authorizing the Archivist to specify "a shorter period of time" if "required under the circumstances"); *accord* 36 C.F.R. § 1270.44(g) ("The Archivist may adjust any time period or deadline under this subpart, as appropriate, to accommodate records requested under this section."). In response to a request from another representative of the former President, the White House Counsel's Office acquiesced in an extension of the production date to April 29, and so advised NARA. In accord with that agreement, we had not yet provided the FBI with access to the records when we received your letter on April 29, and we have continued to refrain from providing such access to date.

It has now been four weeks since we first informed you of our intent to provide the FBI access to the boxes so that it and others in the Intelligence Community can conduct their reviews. Notwithstanding the urgency conveyed by the Department of Justice and the reasonable extension afforded to the former President, your April 29 letter asks for additional time for you to review the materials in the boxes "in order to ascertain whether any specific document is subject to privilege," and then to consult with the former President "so that he may personally make any decision to assert a claim of constitutionally based privilege." Your April 29 letter further states that in the event we do not afford you further time to review the records before NARA discloses them in response to the request, we should consider your letter to be "a protective assertion of executive privilege made by counsel for the former President."

The Counsel to the President has informed me that, in light of the particular circumstances presented here, President Biden defers to my determination, in consultation with the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel, regarding whether or not I should uphold the former President's purported "protective assertion of executive privilege." *See* 36 C.F.R. § 1270.44(f)(3). Accordingly, I have consulted with the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel to inform my "determination as to whether to honor the former President's claim of privilege or instead to disclose the Presidential records notwithstanding the claim of privilege." Exec. Order No. 13,489, § 4(a).

The Assistant Attorney General has advised me that there is no precedent for an assertion of executive privilege by a former President *against an incumbent President* to prevent the latter from obtaining from NARA Presidential records belonging to the Federal Government where “such records contain information that is needed for the conduct of current business of the incumbent President’s office and that is not otherwise available.” 44 U.S.C. § 2205(2)(B).

To the contrary, the Supreme Court’s decision in *Nixon v. Administrator of General Services*, 433 U.S. 425 (1977), strongly suggests that a former President may not successfully assert executive privilege “against the very Executive Branch in whose name the privilege is invoked.” *Id.* at 447-48. In *Nixon v. GSA*, the Court rejected former President Nixon’s argument that a statute requiring that Presidential records from his term in office be maintained in the custody of, and screened by, NARA’s predecessor agency—a “very limited intrusion by personnel in the Executive Branch sensitive to executive concerns”—would “impermissibly interfere with candid communication of views by Presidential advisers.” *Id.* at 451; *see also id.* at 455 (rejecting the claim). The Court specifically noted that an “incumbent President should not be dependent on happenstance or the whim of a prior President when he seeks access to records of past decisions that define or channel current governmental obligations.” *Id.* at 452; *see also id.* at 441-46 (emphasizing, in the course of rejecting a separation-of-powers challenge to a provision of a federal statute governing the disposition of former President Nixon’s tape recordings, papers, and other historical materials “within the Executive Branch,” where the “employees of that branch [would] have access to the materials only ‘for lawful Government use,’” that “[t]he Executive Branch remains in full control of the Presidential materials, and the Act facially is designed to ensure that the materials can be released only when release is not barred by some applicable privilege inherent in that branch”; and concluding that “nothing contained in the Act renders it unduly disruptive of the Executive Branch”).

It is not necessary that I decide whether there might be *any* circumstances in which a former President could successfully assert a claim of executive privilege to prevent an Executive Branch agency from having access to Presidential records for the performance of valid executive functions. The question in this case is not a close one. The Executive Branch here is seeking access to records belonging to, and in the custody of, the Federal Government itself, not only in order to investigate whether those records were handled in an unlawful manner but also, as the National Security Division explained, to “conduct an assessment of the potential damage resulting from the apparent manner in which these materials were stored and transported and take any necessary remedial steps.” These reviews will be conducted by current government personnel who, like the archival officials in *Nixon v. GSA*, are “sensitive to executive concerns.” *Id.* at 451. And on the other side of the balance, there is no reason to believe such reviews could “adversely affect the ability of future Presidents to obtain the candid advice necessary for effective decisionmaking.” *Id.* at 450. To the contrary: Ensuring that classified information is appropriately protected, and taking any necessary remedial action if it was not, are steps essential to preserving the ability of future Presidents to “receive the full and frank submissions of facts and opinions upon which effective discharge of [their] duties depends.” *Id.* at 449.

Because an assertion of executive privilege against the incumbent President under these circumstances would not be viable, it follows that there is no basis for the former President to make a “protective assertion of executive privilege,” which the Assistant Attorney General

informs me has never been made outside the context of a congressional demand for information from the Executive Branch. Even assuming for the sake of argument that a former President may under some circumstances make such a “protective assertion of executive privilege” to preclude the Archivist from complying with a disclosure otherwise prescribed by 44 U.S.C. § 2205(2), there is no predicate for such a “protective” assertion here, where there is no realistic basis that the requested delay would result in a viable assertion of executive privilege against the incumbent President that would prevent disclosure of records for the purposes of the reviews described above. Accordingly, the only end that would be served by upholding the “protective” assertion here would be to delay those very important reviews.

I have therefore decided not to honor the former President’s “protective” claim of privilege. *See* Exec. Order No. 13,489, § 4(a); *see also* 36 C.F.R. 1270.44(f)(3) (providing that unless the incumbent President “uphold[s]” the claim asserted by the former President, “the Archivist discloses the Presidential record”). For the same reasons, I have concluded that there is no reason to grant your request for a further delay before the FBI and others in the Intelligence Community begin their reviews. Accordingly, NARA will provide the FBI access to the records in question, as requested by the incumbent President, beginning as early as Thursday, May 12, 2022.

Please note that, in accordance with the PRA, 44 U.S.C. § 2205(3), the former President’s designated representatives can review the records, subject to obtaining the appropriate level of security clearance. Please contact my General Counsel, Gary M. Stern, if you would like to discuss the details of such a review, such as you proposed in your letter of May 5, 2022, particularly with respect to any unclassified materials.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Debra Steidel Wall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'D' and a long, sweeping underline.

DEBRA STEIDEL WALL
Acting Archivist of the United States

Ex. 25

(Under Seal)

Ex. 26

(Under Seal)

Ex. 27

(Under Seal)

Ex. 28

(Under Seal)

Ex. 29

(Under Seal)

Ex. 30

(Under Seal)

Ex. 31

(Under Seal)

Ex. 32

(Under Seal)

Ex. 33

(Under Seal)

Ex. 34

Olsen, Matthew (NSD)

Subject: Search Warrant Discussion

Location: FBIHQ (b)(7)(E) per FBI

Start: Monday, August 1, 2022 10:30 AM

End: Monday, August 1, 2022 11:15 AM

Show Time As: Tentatively accepted

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: Olsen, Matthew (NSD)

Required Attendees: Newman, David A. (ODAG); Bratt, Jay (NSD); Toscas, George (NSD); Jones, Jason Allen (OGC) (FBI); Kohler, Alan E. Jr. (CD) (FBI); Riedlinger, Anthony T. (WF) (FBI); D'Antuono, Steven Michael (WF) (FBI)

Optional Attendees: Freedman, Brett (NSD); (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD)

Ex. 35

(Under Seal)

Ex. 36

From: Newman, David A. (ODAG)
Subject: Judicia Watch Motion
To: Toscas, George (NSD); (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD)
Sent: August 10, 2022 2:12 PM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: Judicia-Watch-Motion-to-Unsea-Search-Warrant-08332.pdf

FYI.

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Subject: Fwd: Can you send me the litigation filed this morning?
To: (b)(6);(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD)
Sent: August 10, 2022 2:12 PM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: Judicia-Watch-Motion-to-Unsea-Search-Warrant-08332.pdf

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Evers, Austin (ODAG)" <(b) (6)>
Date: August 10, 2022 at 2:10:41 PM EDT
To: "Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)" <(b) (6)>
Subject: RE: Can you send me the litigation filed this morning?

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 2:10 PM
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG) <(b) (6)>
Subject: Can you send me the litigation filed this morning?

Ex. 37

From: Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Subject: Motion
To: Newman, David A. (ODAG); Loeb, Emi y M. (ODAG)
Sent: August 10, 2022 11:12 AM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: Judicia-Watch-Motion-to-Unsea-Search-Warrant-08332.pdf

Austin R. Evers

Office of the Deputy Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice

(b) (6) (m)
(b) (6) (o)

Ex. 38

From: Toscas, George (NSD)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] RE: today's events
To: Osen, Matthew (NSD); (b)(6) per NSD (NSD); Newman, David A. (ODAG) (b)(6) per NSD (NSD)
Sent: August 12, 2022 1:17 PM (UTC-04:00)

From: Bratt, Jay (NSD) (b)(6) per NSD
Sent: Friday, August 12, 2022 1:15 PM
To: Toscas, George (NSD) (b)(6) per NSD >; Gonzalez, Juan Antonio (USAFLS) (b)(6) per EOUSA usa.doj.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) per NSD (NSD) (b)(6) per NSD
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] RE: today's events

Begin forwarded message:

From: Evan Corcoran (b) (6)
Date: August 12, 2022 at 2:11:25 PM ADT
To: "Bratt, Jay (NSD)" (b)(6) per NSD James Trusty <(b) (6)> (b)(6) per NSD (NSD) (b)(6) per NSD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: today's events

See below.

Thank you.

From: Bratt, Jay (NSD) (b)(6) per NSD
Sent: Friday, August 12, 2022 7:55 AM
To: James Trusty (b) (6) >; (b)(6) per NSD (NSD) (b)(6) per NSD
Cc: Evan Corcoran (b) (6)
Subject: RE: today's events

Jim/Evan:

In light of President Trump's statement last night on his social media platform that he wouldn't oppose the release of the court documents and encouraged their "immediate release," may we represent to the court that you have confirmed that this constitutes non-opposition/consent to the motion? [YES](#) If so, I think that also would obviate the need for a call at 2. [AGREED](#). Thanks.

Jay

From: James Trusty (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, August 11, 2022 4:10 PM
To: Bratt, Jay (NSD) (b)(6) per NSD (b)(6) per NSD (NSD) (b)(6) per NSD
Cc: Evan Corcoran (b) (6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] today's events

Jay can we have a call with you and (b)(6) per NSD at 4:30? 5? Later?

Jim

James Trusty | Ifrah Law PLLC | 1717 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W. Suite 650 | (b) (6)

Ex. 39

From: Bratt, Jay (NSD)
Subject: Re: CNN - Mar-a-Lago CCTV Footage
To: Rosse o, Luis (PAO)
Cc: Toscas, George (NSD); Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO); (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD); Iverson, Dena (PAO); (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD); (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD); Co ey, Anthony D. (PAO); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG); Newman, David A. (ODAG); Osen, Matthew (NSD); (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD); Mi er, Marsha (ODAG)
Sent: August 17, 2022 7:28 PM (UTC-04:00)

We did. This was in the call (b)(6), (7)(C), 7(E) per FBI and I had with Evan Corcoran before the search. It is standard for (b)(6), (7)(C), 7(E) per FBI

On Aug 17, 2022, at 7:19 PM, Rossello, Luis (PAO) <Luis.Rossello@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Got a call from Evan. As Jay says, Trump team is still weighting the release. Per Evan, some say it will energize base, others say not a good look for FPOTUS to have it out there.

CNN is working on a story that Jay requested Trump team to turn off the cameras and they refused.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 17, 2022, at 7:04 PM, Bratt, Jay (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> wrote:

CNN is saying FPOTUS is still weighing whether to release the footage.

On Aug 17, 2022, at 7:03 PM, Toscas, George (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> wrote:

Marshall, Matt, and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD

On Aug 17, 2022, at 6:59 PM, Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO) <Kelsey.Pietranton@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Plus Anthony and Luis, and ODAG for awareness. Standby.

From: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD>
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 6:57 PM
To: Iverson, Dena (PAO) <Dena.I.DeBonis@usdoj.gov>; Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO) <Kelsey.Pietranton@usdoj.gov>; Toscas, George (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> Bratt, Jay (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> (NSD)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD

Subject: CNN - Mar-a-Lago CCTV Footage

Importance: High

Good evening all,

I just received a call from our case agents at FBI, and apparently the Bureau has been given a heads-up by CNN that CNN has CCTV footage from Mar-a-Lago (presumably of agents executing the search) that they may air as soon as tonight (b)(5) per NSD

I have no further info on what, specifically, CNN has. But (b)(5) per NSD

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD

Trial Attorney
Counterintelligence and Export Control Section
National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD

Ex. 40

From: Newman, David A. (ODAG)
Subject: RE: CNN - Mar-a-Lago CCTV Footage
To: Miller, Marsha (ODAG); Toscas, George (NSD)
Cc: Rosseto, Luis (PAO); Bratt, Jay (NSD); Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO); (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD); Iverson, Dena (PAO); (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD); (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD); Coley, Anthony D. (PAO); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG); Olsen, Matthew (NSD); (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD)
Sent: August 17, 2022 8:15 PM (UTC-04:00)

George and I agree. (b) (5)

From: Miller, Marshall (ODAG) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 8:15 PM
To: Toscas, George (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD>
Cc: Rosseto, Luis (PAO) <Luis.Rosseto@usdoj.gov>; Bratt, Jay (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO) <Kelsey.Pietranton@usdoj.gov>; (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> Iverson, Dena (PAO) <Dena.I.DeBonis@usdoj.gov>; (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> Coley, Anthony D. (PAO) <(b) (6)> Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) <(b) (6)> Newman, David A. (ODAG) <(b) (6)> Olsen, Matthew (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD>
Subject: Re: CNN - Mar-a-Lago CCTV Footage

Just wondering if (b) (5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 17, 2022, at 8:06 PM, Toscas, George (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> wrote:

(b)(5) per NSD

. Thanks.

On Aug 17, 2022, at 7:47 PM, Miller, Marshall (ODAG) <(b) (6)> wrote:

(b) (5)

?

From: Toscas, George (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD>
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 7:22 PM
To: Rosseto, Luis (PAO) <Luis.Rosseto@usdoj.gov>
Cc: Bratt, Jay (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO) <Kelsey.Pietranton@usdoj.gov>; (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> Iverson, Dena (PAO) <Dena.I.DeBonis@usdoj.gov>; (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> Coley, Anthony D. (PAO) <(b) (6)> Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) <(b) (6)> Newman, David A. (ODAG) <(b) (6)> Olsen, Matthew (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> Miller, Marshall (ODAG) <(b) (6)>
Subject: Re: CNN - Mar-a-Lago CCTV Footage

We're waiting to hear back from FBIHQ on their recommended approach. (b) (5)

(b) (5)

On Aug 17, 2022, at 7:19 PM, Rossello, Luis (PAO) <Luis.Rossello@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Duplicative Records

Ex. 41

From: Toscas, George (NSD)
Subject: Re: CNN - Mar-a-Lago CCTV Footage
To: Miller, Marshall (ODAG)
Cc: Rosendo, Luis (PAO); Bratt, Jay (NSD); Pietrantonio, Kelsey (PAO); (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD); Iverson, Dena (PAO); (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD); (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD); Coey, Anthony D. (PAO); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG); Newman, David A. (ODAG); Osen, Matthew (NSD); (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD)
Sent: August 17, 2022 8:16 PM (UTC-04:00)

Yes. Handling that now.

On Aug 17, 2022, at 8:14 PM, Miller, Marshall (ODAG) <(b)(6)> wrote:

Duplicative Records

Ex. 42

From: Coey, Anthony D. (PAO)
Subject: Re: CNN - Mar-a-Lago CCTV Footage
To: Bratt, Jay (NSD)
Cc: Rosse o, Luis (PAO); Toscas, George (NSD); Pietranton, Ke sey (PAO); (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD); Iverson, Dena (PAO); (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD); (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG); Newman, David A. (ODAG); O sen, Matthew (NSD); (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD); Mi er, Marsha (ODAG)
Sent: August 17, 2022 10:13 PM (UTC-04:00)

Thanks, Jay. Sending now...

On Aug 17, 2022, at 9:59 PM, Bratt, Jay (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> wrote:

I am good with this. Thanks.

From: Coley, Anthony D. (PAO) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 9:48 PM
To: Bratt, Jay (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> Rossello, Luis (PAO) <Luis.Rossello@usdoj.gov>
Cc: Toscas, George (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO) <Kelsey.Pietranton@usdoj.gov>; (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> Iverson, Dena (PAO) <Dena.I.DeBonis@usdoj.gov>; (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) <(b) (6)> Newman, David A. (ODAG) <(b) (6)> Olsen, Matthew (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> Miller, Marshall (ODAG) <(b) (6)>
Subject: RE: CNN - Mar-a-Lago CCTV Footage

(b) (5)

From: Bratt, Jay (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD>

Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 8:59 PM

To: Rossello, Luis (PAO) <Luis.Rossello@usdoj.gov>

Cc: Toscas, George (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO)

<Kelsey.Pietranton@usdoj.gov>; (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> Iverson, Dena

(PAO) <Dena.I.DeBonis@usdoj.gov>; (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD

(NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> Coley, Anthony D. (PAO) <(b)(6)> Atkinson,

Lawrence (ODAG) <(b)(6)> Newman, David A. (ODAG)

<(b)(6)> Olsen, Matthew (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD

(NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> Miller, Marshall (ODAG) <(b)(6)>

Subject: Re: CNN - Mar-a-Lago CCTV Footage

After consultations with George and David, I just sent the attached to Evan Corcoran and Alan Garten, general counsel for the Trump Organization.

On Aug 17, 2022, at 8:18 PM, Rossello, Luis (PAO) <Luis.Rossello@usdoj.gov> wrote:

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/08/17/politics/trump-release-surveillance-footage-fb-mar-a-lago/index.html>

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 17, 2022, at 7:19 PM, Rossello, Luis (PAO) <Luis.Rossello@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Duplicative Records

Ex. 43

From: Newman, David A. (ODAG)
Subject: 08.17.22 Letter
To: Toscas, George (NSD)
Sent: August 17, 2022 8:50 PM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: 08.17.22 Letter .docx

Draft version for editing

Ex. 44

From: Newman, David A. (ODAG)
Subject: Letter
To: Bratt, Jay (NSD)
Cc: Toscas, George (NSD)
Sent: August 17, 2022 8:48 PM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: Letter -- 08.17.22.pdf

See attached PDF. This letter reflects the concerns shared with us this evening from FBI about threats and safety to their personnel. FBI leadership is grateful for the willingness to send this letter. I know you've been in touch with George about this letter and appreciate your reviewing and sending.

--David

Ex. 45

From: Bratt, Jay (NSD)
Subject: FW: News Media intervention in Trump v. United States, No. 22-civ-81294
To: Gonzalez, Juan Antonio (USAFLS)
Cc: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD); Toscas, George (NSD); Newman, David A. (ODAG)
Sent: August 30, 2022 9:59 AM (UTC-04:00)

Tony:

I don't think (b) (5)

Thoughts (including those cc'd)?

Jay

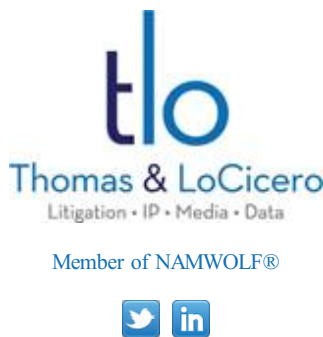
From: Mark R. Caramanica <mcaramanica@tlolawfirm.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 30, 2022 9:54 AM
To: Gonzalez, Juan Antonio (USAFLS) (b)(6) per EOUSA @usa.doj.gov>; Bratt, Jay (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD>
Cc: Dana J. McElroy <DMcElroy@tlolawfirm.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] News Media intervention in Trump v. United States, No. 22-civ-81294

Dear Messrs. Gonzalez and Bratt:

On behalf of a news media coalition (comprising many of the same entities who intervened before Judge Reinhardt regarding the search warrant materials), we plan to file a motion today to intervene in this matter as well. We will be opposing any sealing of records filed under seal pursuant to the Court's August 27, 2022 order (ECF No. 29). Please let us know your position on: 1) intervention and 2) whether the United States will oppose unsealing of those records. We are happy to discuss if you'd like.

Thank you.

-Mark Caramanica



Mark R. Caramanica

60 South Boulevard
Tampa, FL 33606

ph: 8 3 984 3060 direct (b)(6)
fax: 8 3 984 3070 toll free: 866 395 7 00
www.tlolawfirm.com

Tampa South Florida

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Ex. 46

From: Bratt, Jay (NSD)
Subject: Fwd: from counse for Media Intervenors/search warrant matter
To: Co ey, Anthony D. (PAO); Rosse o, Luis (PAO)
Cc: Osen, Matthew (NSD); Toscas, George (NSD); Newman, David A. (ODAG)
Sent: August 24, 2022 7:30 PM (UTC-04:00)

FYI

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Gonzalez, Juan Antonio (USAFLS)" <(b)(6) per EOUSA@usa.doj.gov>
Date: August 24, 2022 at 7:27:23 PM EDT
To: "Tobin, Charles D." <TobinC@ballardspahr.com>
Cc: "Bratt, Jay (NSD)" <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD>
Subject: RE: from counsel for Media Intervenors/search warrant matter

Hi Chuck,

Sorry for the delay getting back to you but I have been tied up today. We are planning to follow the Court's order and file our pleadings under seal. We do not intend to make a public filing however, the Judge may want to make public specific parts of our pleading.

Regards,

Tony

Juan Antonio Gonzalez
United States Attorney
Southern District of Florida
99 NE 4th Street
Miami, Florida 33132
305-961-9100

From: Tobin, Charles D. <TobinC@ballardspahr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 8:44 AM
To: Gonzalez, Juan Antonio (USAFLS) <(b)(6) per EOUSA@usa.doj.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] from counsel for Media Intervenors/search warrant matter

Good morning, Tony, I hope you remain well. I wanted to check on the government's plans for tomorrow's noon filing, per the Court's order.

We presume the government will file two versions of the legal memorandum containing its arguments for the continued sealing of portions of the search warrant affidavit one version sealed, the other a redacted public version. If you would confirm, we would appreciate it. Thank you.

Chuck

Charles D. Tobin



1909 K Street, NW, 12th Floor
Washington, DC 20006-1157

(b) (6) direct
202.661.2299 fax

tobinc@bardspahr.com

www.bardspahr.com

Ex. 47

From: (b)(6) David Newman
Subject: Re: Activity in Case 9:22-mj-08332-BER USA v. Sealed Search Warrant Order
To: Olsen, Matthew (NSD)
Cc: Miller, Marsha (ODAG)
Sent: August 22, 2022 8:32 AM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: Order on Motions to Unseal.pdf

Thanks. (b) (5)

A credit to Jay and the briefing team.

On Aug 22, 2022, at 2:22 PM, Olsen, Matthew (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> wrote:

Forwarding the court's order (b) (5)

-Matt

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Bratt, Jay (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD>
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 8:12:30 AM
To: Olsen, Matthew (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD)
<(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD>
Cc: Toscas, George (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD)
<(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD>
Subject: FW: Activity in Case 9:22-mj-08332-BER USA v. Sealed Search Warrant Order

From: Bratt, Jay (NSD)
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 8:12 AM
To: Gonzalez, Juan Antonio (USAFLS) <(b)(6) per EOUSA> @usa.doj.gov>; (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD)
<(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> Toscas, George (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> Wu, Jason (USAFLS)
<JWu@usa.doj.gov>; (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD)
(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD>; (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD)
<(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> Gilbert, Karen (USAFLS) <(b)(6) per EOUSA> @usa.doj.gov>; Thakur, Michael (USAFLS)
(b)(6) per EOUSA @usa.doj.gov>; Smith, Jeffrey (NSD) <Jeffrey.Smith5@usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: Activity in Case 9:22-mj-08332-BER USA v. Sealed Search Warrant Order

Thanks, Tony. For those without immediate PACER access, I'm attaching a pdf of the order.

From: Gonzalez, Juan Antonio (USAFLS) <(b)(6) per EOUSA> @usa.doj.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 8:03 AM
To: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> Toscas, George (NSD)
<(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> Wu, Jason (USAFLS) <JWu@usa.doj.gov>; Bratt, Jay (NSD)
<(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD)
(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD>; (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD) <(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD (NSD)
<(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) per NSD> Gilbert, Karen (USAFLS) <(b)(6) per EOUSA> @usa.doj.gov>; Thakur, Michael (USAFLS)
(b)(6) per EOUSA @usa.doj.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Activity in Case 9:22-mj-08332-BER USA v. Sealed Search Warrant Order

This is a very well written order. Clearly written for the media/public and not really for the lawyers.
Contains nothing new.

Tony

Juan A. Gonzalez
U.S. Attorney
Southern District of Florida

Begin forwarded message:

From: cmecfautosender@flsd.uscourts.gov
Date: August 22, 2022 at 7:49:38 AM EDT
To: flsd_cmecf_notice@flsd.uscourts.gov
Subject: Activity in Case 9:22-mj-08332-BER USA v. Sealed Search Warrant Order

This is an automatic e-mail message generated by the CM/ECF system. Please DO NOT RESPOND to this e-mail because the mail box is unattended.

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U.S. District Court

Southern District of Florida

Notice of Electronic Filing

The following transaction was entered on 8/22/2022 at 7:48 AM EDT and filed on 8/22/2022

Case Name: USA v. Sealed Search Warrant

Case Number: [9:22-mj-08332-BER](#)

Filer:

Document Number: [80](#)

Docket Text:

ORDER as to Sealed Search Warrant, memorializing and supplementing oral rulings at August 18, 2022, hearing. Signed by Magistrate Judge Bruce E. Reinhart See attached document for full details. (BER)

9:22-mj-08332-BER-1 Notice has been electronically mailed to:

Andrea Flynn Mogensen andrea@sarasotacriminallawyer.com, records@flcga.org

Carol Jean LoCicero clocicero@tlolawfirm.com, nparsons@tlolawfirm.com,
tgilley@tlolawfirm.com

Charles David Tobin tobinc@ballardspahr.com, baileys@ballardspahr.com,
LitDocket_East@ballardspahr.com, relyear@ballardspahr.com, tom.winter@nbcuni.com,
tranp@ballardspahr.com

Dana Jane McElroy dmcelroy@tlolawfirm.com, bbrennan@tlolawfirm.com,

tgilley@tlolawfirm.com

Deanna Kendall Shullman dshullman@shullmanfugate.com, abeene@shullmanfugate.com,
pleadings@shullmanfugate.com

Elizabeth Seidlin-Bernstein SeidlinE@ballardspahr.com

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James Calvin Moon jmoon@melandbudwick.com, ltannenbaum@ecf.courtdrive.com,
ltannenbaum@melandbudwick.com, mrbnefs@yahoo.com, phornia@ecf.courtdrive.com

Juan Antonio Gonzalez , Jr juan.antonio.gonzalez@usdoj.gov, CaseView.ECF@usdoj.gov,
USAFLS-HQDKT@usdoj.gov, wanda.hubbard@usdoj.gov

L. Martin Reeder , Jr martin@athertonlg.com, e-service@athertonlg.com,
tracey@athertonlg.com

Mark Richard Caramanica mcaramanica@tlolawfirm.com, bbrennan@tlolawfirm.com,
dlake@tlolawfirm.com

Michael Bekesha mbekesha@judicialwatch.org

Nellie Linn King Nellie@CriminalDefenseFla.com, Anne@CriminalDefenseFla.com

Paul J. Orfanedes porfanedes@judicialwatch.org

Rachel Elise Fugate rfugate@shullmanfugate.com, abeene@shullmanfugate.com,
pleadings@shullmanfugate.com

9:22-mj-08332-BER-1 Notice has not been delivered electronically to those listed below and will be provided by other means. For further assistance, please contact our Help Desk at 1-888-318-2260.:

The following document(s) are associated with this transaction:

Document description:Main Document

Original filename:n/a

Electronic document Stamp:

[STAMP dcecfStamp_ID 1105629215 [Date 8/22/2022] [FileNumber 22486292-0] [871089e550bf8eb1e2cd0a56c1dbe293e7a4e8c2a152333ba4038c98a2a03dc0290d29a9487297d1a12d777aed57e6465d3bab491d96394fdfa6ea1519956518]]

Ex. 48

From: Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Subject: Re: time-sensitive (b) (5) questions
To: Newman, David A. (ODAG)
Cc: Lederman, Martin (OLC); Schroeder, Christopher H. (OLC); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Sent: August 31, 2022 7:27 AM (UTC-04:00)

A relevant question is (b) (5)

Austin R. Evers
(b) (6) (m)

On Aug 31, 2022, at 7:11 AM, Newman, David A. (ODAG) <(b) (6)> wrote:

Thank you, Marty. Let me read these and circle back.

On Aug 31, 2022, at 6:40 AM, Lederman, Martin (OLC) <(b)(6) per OLC> wrote:

David: For purposes of your forthcoming call with Gary, note that he has also reached out to

(b)(5) per OLC

(b)(5) per OLC

(b)(5) per OLC

(b)(5) per OLC

After your call, we should discuss ASAP (i) whether we in OLC should have any follow-up conversations with Gary concerning (b)(5) per OLC

Thanks very much.

Marty Lederman
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legal Counsel

Department of Justice
(b)(6) per OLC (cell)
(office)

From: Lederman, Martin (OLC)
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2022 3:23 PM
To: Newman, David A. (ODAG) <(b) (6)> Schroeder, Christopher H.
(OLC) (b)(6) per OLC
Cc: Evers, Austin (ODAG) <(b) (6)> Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
<(b) (6)>
Subject: Re: time-sensitive (b) (5) questions

Gary pinged me again. Everyone ok with me conveying our current view?

Sent from my iPhone

Duplicative Records

Ex. 49

From: Lederman, Martin (OLC)
Subject: Re: time-sensitive (b) (5) questions
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Cc: Newman, David A. (ODAG); Schroeder, Christopher H. (OLC); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Sent: August 29, 2022 3:38 PM (UTC-04:00)

Ok, but if there's a way to settle on it today, that'd be great. I suppose that in the meantime I could simply tell Gary that we are considering the question.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 29, 2022, at 3:26 PM, Evers, Austin (ODAG) <(b) (6)> wrote:

Please hold (b) (5)

From: Lederman, Martin (OLC) (b)(6) per OLC
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2022 3:23 PM
To: Newman, David A. (ODAG) <(b) (6)> Schroeder, Christopher H. (OLC)
(b)(6) per OLC
Cc: Evers, Austin (ODAG) <(b) (6)> Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
<(b) (6)>
Subject: Re: time-sensitive (b) (5) questions

Gary pinged me again. Everyone ok with me conveying our current view?

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 29, 2022, at 9:13 AM, Lederman, Martin (OLC) <(b)(6) per OLC> wrote:

I agree, too. And I'll add this:

(b)(5) per OLC

(b)(5) per OLC

How does that sound? Should I (b) (5) [REDACTED] ?

Marty Lederman
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legal Counsel
Department of Justice
(b)(6) per OLC (cell)
(b)(6) per OLC (office)

From: Newman, David A. (ODAG) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2022 8:42 AM
To: Schroeder, Christopher H. (OLC) <(b)(6) per OLC>; Lederman, Martin (OLC) <(b)(6) per OLC>
Cc: Evers, Austin (ODAG) <(b) (6)> Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) <(b) (6)>
Subject: RE: time-sensitive (b) (5) questions

Thanks, Chris. That makes sense (b) (5) [REDACTED]

From: Schroeder, Christopher H. (OLC) <(b)(6) per OLC>
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2022 8:15 AM
To: Lederman, Martin (OLC) <(b)(6) per OLC>; Newman, David A. (ODAG) <(b) (6)>
Cc: Evers, Austin (ODAG) <(b) (6)> Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) <(b) (6)>
Subject: RE: time-sensitive (b) (5) questions

On the question of (b)(5) per OLC [REDACTED], my first instinct is (b)(5) per OLC [REDACTED]

(b)(5) per OLC

From: Lederman, Martin (OLC) (b)(6) per OLC
Sent: Sunday, August 28, 2022 11:23 PM
To: Newman, David A. (ODAG) (b)(6)
Cc: Schroeder, Christopher H. (OLC) (b)(6) per OLC Evers, Austin
(ODAG) (b)(6) Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
(b)(6)
Subject: RE: time-sensitive (b)(5) questions

(b)(5) per OLC

Marty Lederman
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legal Counsel
Department of Justice
(b)(6) per OLC (cell)
(b)(6) per OLC (office)

From: Newman, David A. (ODAG) (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, August 28, 2022 11:19 PM
To: Lederman, Martin (OLC) (b)(6) per OLC
Cc: Schroeder, Christopher H. (OLC) (b)(6) per OLC Evers, Austin
(ODAG) (b)(6) Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
(b)(6)
Subject: Re: time-sensitive (b)(5) questions

Thank you. I appreciate the update. I will connect tomorrow with this group and others to discuss further. In the meantime, I do not thin (b) (5)

On Aug 28, 2022, at 11:15 PM, Lederman, Martin (OLC)

(b)(6) per OLC wrote:

Gary Stern called today to raise a question or two (b)(5) per OLC

(b)(5) per OLC

Gary is interested to know what DOJ's view is on (b)(5) per OLC

I mentioned these questions briefly to Rush this afternoon. Our first order of business, I believe, is (b)(5) per OLC

One other thing to note: (b)(5) per OLC

(b)(5) per OLC [REDACTED]

I'll be on the road much of tomorrow (Monday), but could talk if necessary.

Thanks.

Marty Lederman
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legal Counsel
Department of Justice
(b)(6) per OLC (cell)
(b)(6) per OLC (office)

Ex. 50

(Under Seal)

Ex. 51

(Under Seal)

Ex. 52

(Under Seal)

Ex. 53

(Under Seal)

Ex. 54

(Under Seal)

Ex. 55

(Under Seal)

Ex. 56

(Under Seal)

Ex. 57

(Under Seal)

Ex. 58

(Under Seal)

Ex. 59

(Under Seal)

Ex. 60

(Under Seal)

Ex. 61

(Under Seal)

Ex. 62

Garland Faces Growing Pressure as Jan. 6 Investigation Widens

The inquiry is a test for President Biden and Attorney General Merrick B. Garland, who both came into office promising to restore the Justice Department's independence.



By Katie Benner, Katie Rogers and Michael S. Schmidt
April 2, 2022

WASHINGTON — Immediately after Merrick B. Garland was sworn in as attorney general in March of last year, he summoned top Justice Department officials and the F.B.I. director to his office. He wanted a detailed briefing on the case that will, in all likelihood, come to define his legacy: the Jan. 6 assault on the Capitol.

Even though hundreds of people had already been charged, Mr. Garland asked to go over the indictments in detail, according to two people familiar with the meeting. What were the charges? What evidence did they have? How had they built such a sprawling investigation, involving all 50 states, so fast? What was the plan now?

The attorney general's deliberative approach has come to frustrate Democratic allies of the White House and, at times, President Biden himself. As recently as late last year, Mr. Biden confided to his inner circle that he believed former President Donald J. Trump was a threat to democracy and should be prosecuted, according to two people familiar with his comments. And while the president has never communicated his frustrations directly to Mr. Garland, he has said privately that he wanted Mr. Garland to act less like a ponderous judge and more like a prosecutor who is willing to take decisive action over the events of Jan. 6.

Speaking to reporters on Friday, Mr. Garland said that he and the career prosecutors working on the case felt only the pressure “to do the right thing,” which meant that they “follow the facts and the law wherever they may lead.”

Still, Democrats' increasingly urgent calls for the Justice Department to take more aggressive action highlight the tension between the frenetic demands of politics and the methodical pace of one of the biggest prosecutions in the department's history.

“The Department of Justice must move swiftly,” Representative Elaine Luria, Democrat of Virginia and a member of the House committee investigating the riot, said this past week. She and others on the panel want the department to charge Trump allies with contempt for refusing to comply with the committee's subpoenas.

“Attorney General Garland,” Ms. Luria said during a committee hearing, “do your job so that we can do ours.”

This article is based on interviews with more than a dozen people, including officials in the Biden administration and people with knowledge of the president's thinking, all of whom asked for anonymity to discuss private conversations.

In a statement, Andrew Bates, a White House spokesman, said the president believed that Mr. Garland had “decisively restored” the independence of the Justice Department.

“President Biden is immensely proud of the attorney general's service in this administration and has no role in investigative priorities or decisions,” Mr. Bates said.

A Justice Department spokesman declined to comment.

The Jan. 6 investigation is a test not just for Mr. Garland, but for Mr. Biden as well. Both men came into office promising to restore the independence and reputation of a Justice Department that Mr. Trump had tried to weaponize for political gain.

For Mr. Biden, keeping that promise means inviting the ire of supporters who say they will hold the president to the remarks he made on the anniversary of the assault on the Capitol, when he vowed to make sure “the past isn't buried” and said that the people who planned the siege “held a dagger at the throat of America.”



President Biden and Mr. Garland are managing a relationship between the White House and the Justice Department unlike any other in American history. Doug Mills/The New York Times

Complicating matters for Mr. Biden is the fact that his two children are entangled in federal investigations, making it all the more important that he stay out of the Justice Department's affairs or risk being seen as interfering for his own family's gain.

The department is investigating whether Ashley Biden was the victim of pro-Trump political operatives who obtained her diary at a critical moment in the 2020 presidential campaign, and Hunter Biden is under federal investigation for tax avoidance and his international business dealings. Hunter Biden has not been charged with a crime and has said he handled his affairs appropriately.

Justice Department officials do not keep Mr. Biden abreast of any investigation, including those involving his children, several people familiar with the situation said. The cases involving Hunter Biden and Ashley Biden are worked on by career officials, and people close to the president, including Dana Remus, the White House counsel, have no visibility into them, those people said.

Still, the situation crystallizes the delicate ground that Mr. Biden and Mr. Garland are navigating.

When it comes to Jan. 6, Justice Department officials emphasize that their investigation has produced substantial results already, including more than 775 arrests and a charge of seditious conspiracy against the leader of a far-right militia. More than 280 people have been charged with obstructing Congress's duty to certify the election results.

And federal prosecutors have widened the investigation to include a broad range of figures associated with Mr. Trump's attempts to cling to power. According to people familiar with the inquiry, it now encompasses planning for pro-Trump rallies ahead of the riot and the push by some Trump allies to promote slates of fake electors.



The Justice Department's Jan. 6 inquiry has led to more than 775 arrests. More than 280 people have been charged with obstructing Congress's duty to certify the election results. Erin Schaff/The New York Times

The Justice Department has given no public indication about its timeline or whether prosecutors might be considering a case against Mr. Trump.

The House committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack can send criminal referrals to the Justice Department, but only the department can bring charges. The panel is working with a sense of urgency to build its case ahead of this year's midterm elections, when Republicans could retake the House and dissolve the committee.

Mr. Biden, a longtime creature of the Senate, is aghast that people close to Mr. Trump have defied congressional subpoenas and has told people close to him that he does not understand how they think they can do so, according to two people familiar with his thinking.

Mr. Garland has not changed his approach to criminal prosecutions in order to placate his critics, according to several Justice Department officials who have discussed the matter with him. He is regularly briefed on the Jan. 6 investigation, but he has remained reticent in public.

"The best way to undermine an investigation is to say things out of court," Mr. Garland said on Friday.

Even in private, he relies on a stock phrase: "Rule of law," he says, "means there not be one rule for friends and another for foes."

He did seem to acknowledge Democrats' frustrations in a speech in January, when he reiterated that the department "remains committed to holding all Jan. 6 perpetrators, at any level, accountable under law."

Quiet and reserved, Mr. Garland is well known for the job he was denied: a seat on the Supreme Court. President Barack Obama nominated him in March 2016 after the death of Justice Antonin Scalia, but Senate Republicans blockaded the nomination.

Mr. Garland's peers regard him as a formidable legal mind and a political centrist. After graduating from Harvard Law School, he clerked for a federal appeals court judge and Justice William J. Brennan Jr. of the Supreme Court before becoming a top official in the Justice Department under Attorney General Janet Reno. There, he prosecuted domestic terrorism cases and supervised the federal investigation into the Oklahoma City bombing.

His critics say that his subsequent years as an appeals court judge made him slow and overly deliberative. But his defenders say that he has always carefully considered legal issues, particularly if the stakes were very high — a trait that most likely helped the Justice Department secure a conviction against Timothy J. McVeigh two years after the Oklahoma City attack.

During the presidential transition after the 2020 election, Mr. Biden took his time mulling over candidates to be attorney general, according to a senior member of the transition team. He had promised the American people that he would reestablish the department as an independent arbiter within the government, not the president's partisan brawler.

In meetings, the incoming president and his aides discussed potential models at length: Did Mr. Biden want a strong personality in the job, like Eric H. Holder Jr., who held the post under Mr. Obama? The relatively quick consensus was no.

Did he want someone who would be seen as a political ally? Some in his circle suggested that might be a good model to follow, which is why former Senator Doug Jones of Alabama, a longtime friend of Mr. Biden's, was once on his shortlist.

But in the end, Mr. Biden went with Mr. Garland, who had a reputation for being evenhanded and independent.

Despite Mr. Biden's private frustrations with the attorney general, several people who speak regularly to the president said he had praised Mr. Garland as among the most thoughtful, moral and intelligent people he had dealt with in his career.

The two men did not know each other well when Mr. Biden selected him for the job. Mr. Garland had a closer relationship with Ron Klain, Mr. Biden's chief of staff, than he did with the incoming president.

Mr. Garland is well known for the job he was denied: a seat on the Supreme Court. Kenny Holston for The New York Times

Officials inside the White House and the Justice Department acknowledge that the two men have less contact than some previous presidents and attorneys general, particularly Mr. Trump and his last attorney general, William P. Barr.

Some officials see their limited interactions as an overcorrection on the part of Mr. Garland and argue that he does not need to color so scrupulously within the lines. But it may be the only logical position for Mr. Garland to take, particularly given that both of Mr. Biden's children are involved in active investigations by the Justice Department.

The distance between the two men is a sharp departure from the previous administration, when Mr. Trump would often call Mr. Barr to complain about decisions related to his political allies and enemies. Such calls were a clear violation of the longtime norms governing contact between the White House and the Justice Department.

Mr. Biden, a former chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, came to his job as president with a classical, post-Watergate view of the department — that it was not there to be a political appendage.

Still, there is unrelenting pressure from Democrats to hold Mr. Trump and his allies accountable for the violence that unfolded at the Capitol on Jan. 6. While there is no indication that federal prosecutors are close to charging the former president, Mr. Biden and those closest to him understand the legal calculations. What Mr. Garland is confronting is anything but a normal problem, with enormous political stakes ahead of the next presidential election.

There is unrelenting pressure from Democrats to hold former President Donald J. Trump and his allies accountable for the violence that unfolded at the Capitol on Jan. 6.
Audra Melton for The New York Times

Federal prosecutors would have no room for error in building a criminal case against Mr. Trump, experts say, given the high burden of proof they must meet and the likelihood of any decision being appealed.

A criminal investigation in Manhattan that examined Mr. Trump’s business dealings imploded this year, underscoring the risks and challenges that come with trying to indict the former president. The new district attorney there, Alvin Bragg, would not let his prosecutors present a grand jury with evidence that they felt proved Mr. Trump knowingly falsified the value of his assets for undue financial gain.

One of the outside lawyers who oversaw the case and resigned in protest wrote in a letter to Mr. Bragg that his decision was “a grave failure of justice,” even if he feared that the district attorney’s office could lose.

At times, Mr. Biden cannot help but get drawn into the discourse over the Justice Department, despite his stated commitment to stay away.

In October, he told reporters that he thought those who defied subpoenas from the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack should be prosecuted.

“I hope that the committee goes after them and holds them accountable criminally,” Mr. Biden said. When asked whether the Justice Department should prosecute them, he replied, “I do, yes.”

The president’s words prompted a swift statement from the agency: “The Department of Justice will make its own independent decisions in all prosecutions based solely on the facts and the law. Period. Full stop.”

Katie Benner covers the Justice Department. She was part of a team that won a Pulitzer Prize in 2018 for public service for reporting on workplace sexual harassment issues. More about Katie Benner

Katie Rogers is a White House correspondent, covering life in the Biden administration, Washington culture and domestic policy. She joined The Times in 2014. More about Katie Rogers

Michael S. Schmidt is a Washington correspondent covering national security and federal investigations. He was part of two teams that won Pulitzer Prizes in 2018 — one for reporting on workplace sexual harassment and the other for coverage of President Trump and his campaign’s ties to Russia. More about Michael S. Schmidt

A version of this article appears in print on , Section A, Page 1 of the New York edition with the headline: Pressure on Garland as Jan. 6 Inquiry Expands

Ex. 63

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216
(202) 225-6906
judiciary.house.gov

January 12, 2024

Mr. Nathan J. Wade, Esq.
Nathan J. Wade, P.C. Attorney at Law
d/b/a Wade & Campbell Firm
1827 Powers Ferry Road
Building 25, Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30339

Dear Mr. Wade:

The Committee on the Judiciary continues to conduct oversight of politically motivated prosecutions by state and local officials. Based on recent reports, we believe that you possess documents and information about the coordination of the Fulton County District Attorney's Office (FCDAO) with other politically motivated investigations and prosecutions and the potential misuse of federal funds. Accordingly, we ask for your cooperation with our oversight.

On August 14, 2023, with your assistance, Fulton County District Attorney Fani T. Willis indicted a former President of the United States and current declared candidate for that office.¹ According to a recent court filing, you have been paid more than \$650,000—at the rate of \$250 per hour—to serve as an “Attorney Consultant” and later a “Special Assistant District Attorney” in the unprecedented investigation and prosecution of the former President and other former federal officials.² This filing also alleges that while receiving a substantial amount of money from Fulton County, you spent extravagantly on lavish vacations with your boss, Ms. Willis.³

Although Ms. Willis has so far refused to cooperate with our oversight of the FCDAO's coordination with other politically motivated prosecutions, invoices that you submitted for payment by the FCDAO, and made public as part of this court filing, highlight this collusion. This new information appears to substantiate our concerns that Ms. Willis's politicized

¹ Indictment, *Georgia v. Donald John Trump, et al.*, No. 23SC188947 (Aug. 14, 2023, Fulton Co. Sup. Ct.).

² Defendant Michael Roman's Motion to Dismiss Grand Jury Indictment as Fatally Defective and Motion to Disqualify the District Attorney, Her Office and the Special Prosecutor from Further Prosecuting this Matter at 11, *Georgia v. Donald John Trump, et al.*, No. 23SC188947 (Jan. 8, 2024, Fulton Co. Sup. Ct.) (“Roman Motion”).

³ *Id.* at 26-27.

Mr. Nathan J. Wade, Esq.
January 12, 2024
Page 2

prosecution, including the decision to convene a special purpose grand jury, was aided by partisan Democrats in Washington, D.C.⁴ For example:

- In April 2022, you billed \$6,000 for 24 hours of “[t]eam meeting; Conf w/Jan 6; Research legal issues to prep intev” from April 18 to 22.⁵
- In May 2022, you billed \$2,000 for eight hours of “travel to Athens; conf. with White House Counsel” on May 23, 2022.⁶
- In that same invoice, you billed another \$2,000 for eight hours of “team meeting; Conf w/Jan 6; SPGJ witness prep” on May 31, 2022.⁷
- In September 2022, you billed \$6,000 for 24 hours of “[w]itness [i]nterviews; conf call DC; team meeting” from September 7 to 9.⁸
- In November 2022, you billed \$2,000 for eight hours of “Jan 6 meeting and Atty conf.” on November 16.⁹
- In that same invoice, you billed another \$2,000 for eight hours of “[i]nterview with DC/White House” on November 18.¹⁰

The FCDAO reportedly compensated you using a concoction of comingled funds, including monies confiscated or seized by the FCDAO and monies directed from Fulton County’s “general” fund.¹¹ The Committee has information that the FCDAO received approximately \$14.6 million in grant funds from the Department of Justice between 2020 and 2023¹² and, given the enormous legal fees you have billed to the FCDAO, there are open questions about whether federal funds were used by the FCDAO to finance your prosecution. In fact, on one day—November 5, 2021—you billed taxpayers for 24 hours of legal work, attesting that you worked all day and night without break on a politically motivated prosecution.

A recent news report corroborates your coordination with partisan Democrats, explaining that you and FCDAO staff “quietly met” with the partisan January 6 Committee, which allowed

⁴ Letter from Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Dist. Att’y Fani T. Willis, Fulton Co. Dist. Att’y’s Off. (Dec. 5, 2023) (“December Letter”).

⁵ *Id.* at Ex. F (invoice #6).

⁶ *See id.* at Ex. F (invoice #8); Josh Boswell, *Invoices from lawyer ‘lover’ hired by Fani Willis to prosecute Donald Trump in election interference case show he had TWO 8-hour meetings with the Biden White House counsel*, DAILYMAIL.COM (Jan. 9, 2024).

⁷ Roman Motion, *supra* note 2, Ex. F (invoice #8).

⁸ *Id.* at Ex. F (invoice #12).

⁹ *Id.* at Ex. H (invoice #14).

¹⁰ *See* Roman Motion at Ex. F, Boswell, *supra* note 6.

¹¹ Roman Motion at 13-16.

¹² Letter from Fani T. Willis to Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary at Ex. E (Sept. 7, 2023).

Mr. Nathan J. Wade, Esq.
January 12, 2024
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you to review information they had gathered.¹³ *Politico* reported that the partisan January 6 Committee provided Ms. Willis's prosecution a "boost" as she prepared to convene a special grand jury and even "helped prosecutors prepare for interviews with key witnesses."¹⁴ The same article suggests that the partisan January 6 Committee provided you access to records it withheld from other law-enforcement entities and even other Members of Congress.¹⁵

LAW OFFICES OF NATHAN J WADE			
VENDOR ID# [REDACTED]			
ATTENTION: Fulton County District Attorney's Office [REDACTED] Atlanta, GA 30303			
Project Title: Anti-Corruption Special Prosecutor			
INVOICE #14 [REDACTED] Marietta, GA 30067 [REDACTED]			
Description	DATE COMPLETED	HOURS BILLED	Cost
Team interview meeting, Prep	11/7/22	8 hrs @ \$250	\$2,000.00
Meetings with witnesses and interviews with OA	11/8/22	5 hrs @ \$250	\$1,250.00
SPGJ; Discovery doc	11/9/22-11/10/22	16 hrs @ \$250	\$4,000.00
SPGJ info session and prep	11/14/22	8 hr @ \$250	\$2,000.00
SPGJ	11/15/22	8hrs @ \$250	\$2,000.00
Jan 6 meeting and Atty conf.	11/16/22	8 hrs @ \$250	\$2,000.00
Interview with DC/White House	11/18/22	8 hrs @ \$250	\$2,000.00
Witness interview and doc review	11/21/22	8 hrs @ \$250	\$2,000.00
SPGJ	11/22/22	8 hrs @ \$250	\$2,000.00
Meeting with OA re testimony prep	11/28/22	8 hrs @ \$250	\$2,000.00
SPGJ	11/29/22	8 hrs @ \$250	\$2,000.00
SPGJ	11/30/22	8 hrs @ \$250	\$2,000.00
		Total	\$25,250.00
***Due to billing restrictions this invoice has been significantly truncated			
Please Note, this invoice covers November of 2022			
Submitted, this _19_ day of _January_, 2023			
Nathan J Wade			
			okay to pay ATG

The Committee has serious concerns about the degree of improper coordination among politicized actors—including the Biden White House—to investigate and prosecute President Biden's chief political opponent. This new information released recently only reinforces the Committee's concerns about politically motivated prosecutions by state and local officials. To advance our oversight, we ask that you please produce the following documents and information for the period of November 1, 2021, to the present:

¹³ Betsy Woodruff, et al., *Jan. 6 committee helped guide early days of Georgia Trump probe*, POLITICO (Jan. 10, 2024).

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ *Id.*

Mr. Nathan J. Wade, Esq.
January 12, 2024
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1. All documents and communications in your possession between or among the Fulton County District Attorney's Office, including yourself, and the U.S. Department of Justice and its components, including but not limited to Special Counsel Jack Smith, referring or relating to the Fulton County District Attorney's Office's investigation of President Trump;
2. All documents and communications in your possession between or among the Fulton County District Attorney's Office, including yourself, and the Executive Office of the President, including but not limited to the White House Counsel's Office, referring or relating to the Fulton County District Attorney's Office's investigation of President Trump;
3. All documents and communications in your possession between or among the Fulton County District Attorney's Office, including yourself, and the partisan January 6 Select Committee referring or relating to the Fulton County District Attorney's Office's investigation of President Trump;
4. All notes, memoranda, documents, or other material in your possession referring or relating to your meetings, conferences, phone calls, or other interactions with the U.S. Department of Justice, the Executive Office of the President, or the partisan January 6 Select Committee;
5. All invoices, including credit card statements and individualized reimbursement requests, submitted by you or your law partners to the Fulton County District Attorney's Office relating to its investigation of President Trump; and
6. All contracts and financial arrangements between you and the Fulton County District Attorney's Office relating to its investigation of President Trump.

Please provide this information as soon as possible but not later than 10:00 a.m. on January 26, 2024.

Pursuant to Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee has jurisdiction over criminal justice matters in the United States.¹⁶ If you have any questions about this request, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-6906. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan
Chairman

¹⁶ Rules of the House of Representatives, R. X, 118th Cong. (2023).

Mr. Nathan J. Wade, Esq.

January 12, 2024

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cc: The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler, Ranking Member

Ex. 64

UNCLASSIFIED

January 6, 2021

United States Senate
Select Committee on Intelligence
Washington, DC 20510-6475

RE: SSCI #2020-3029

Dear Acting Chairman Rubio and Vice Chairman Warner,

(U) This letter responds to your letter to me of October 29, 2020, asking for an independent review of possible instances of politicization of intelligence. The letter transmits my findings, which are laid out more fully in the attached report. I am prepared to provide a classified briefing to discuss the findings in more detail.

(U) The United States is in a hyperpartisan state, unlike any in recent memory. The country is divided along political, ideological, and racial lines to the point where civil discourse has become difficult if not impossible. The polarized atmosphere has threatened to undermine the foundations of our Republic, penetrating even into the Intelligence Community. Though, as intelligence professionals, we have the ethical responsibility to remain unbiased and objective in our work, we are human beings and can still feel the pressures from society and our political leaders. Pressures from our political leaders have sometimes placed demands on us that have translated into what might seem like bias or a loss of objectivity. In most cases, what we see is the entire system responding to and resisting pressures from outside, rather than attempts to politicize intelligence by our leaders or analysts.

(U) In this environment, characterized by unintentional loss of objectivity, there have been a few incidents where we documented where individuals, or groups of individuals, taking willful actions that – whatever their motivations – had the effect of politicizing intelligence, hindering objective analysis, or injecting bias into the intelligence process. This report lays out the evidence for these instances.

(U) The bottom-line-up-front answers to your questions are:

(U) **Have ODNI-published products adhered to Analytic Standards?** YES, within the scope of the tradecraft review explained below.

(U) **Have ODNI officials politicized or attempted to politicize intelligence, exercised or attempted to exercise undue influence on the analysis, production, or dissemination process of ODNI-published intelligence products related to election security?** YES, in some cases as documented below.

(U) **Have definitions or analytic tradecraft been altered, misapplied, or applied inconsistently on these products?** YES, in some cases as documented below.

(U) **Has ODNI followed standard procedure for the drafting, editing, approval, and dissemination of analytic products related to election interference?** NO, not in all cases, as documented below.

UNCLASSIFIED

(U) By taking on board this report, the Intelligence Community recognizes where we have not met our responsibilities for objective intelligence. By taking up the recommendations detailed in Appendix I, the Intelligence Community shows that it is already taking steps to correct where we lost our focus on objectivity in the past and will work to ensure that it does not happen again.

Sincerely,



Dr. Barry A. Zulauf,

IC Analytic Ombudsman,

Office of the Director of National Intelligence

UNCLASSIFIED

(U) Independent IC Analytic Ombudsman's on Politicization of Intelligence**(U) Authorities**

(U) As the Intelligence Community (IC) Analytic Ombudsman, IRTPA Section 1020 grants me the authority to counsel, conduct arbitration, offer recommendations, and, as appropriate, initiate inquiries into real or perceived problems of analytic tradecraft or politicization, biased reporting, or lack of objectivity in intelligence analysis. For definitions of these standards, see Annex II. In his appointment letter to me, DNI Ratcliffe conveyed his personal commitment to the Ombudsman's obligation to provide an independent avenue for analysts to pursue unbiased analysis. Even the perception that intelligence is being politicized can undermine the trust that the American people have placed in the work of the Intelligence Community. Accordingly, what follows is my independent review and recommendations as the IC Analytic Ombudsman.

(U) Altered, Misapplied or Inconsistent Analytic Tradecraft or Definitions

(U) My review, conducted in response to IC complaints regarding the election threat issue, surfaced a number of examples of altered tradecraft and misapplied or inconsistent definitions. Due to varying collection and insight into hostile state actors' leadership intentions and domestic election influence campaigns, the definitional use of the terms "influence" and "interference" and associated confidence levels are applied differently by the China and Russia analytic communities. A formal definition document, *Lexicon for Russian Influence Efforts (U//FOUO)*, was published by the NIC in June 2017, however there is no parallel document for China, and it seems that the Russia document is not widely known across IC agencies, at least not outside the election threat community. The terms were applied inconsistently across the analytic community. Failing to explain properly these definitions is inconsistent with Tradecraft Standards 1, 2, and 6.

(U) Given analytic differences in the way Russia and China analysts examined their targets, China analysts appeared hesitant to assess Chinese actions as undue influence or interference. These analysts appeared reluctant to have their analysis on China brought forward because they tended to disagree with the Administration's policies, saying in effect, I don't want our intelligence used to support those policies. This behavior would constitute a violation of Analytic Standard B: Independent of Political Considerations (IRTPA Section 1019). On the other hand, Russia analysts assessed that there was clear and credible evidence of Russian election influence activities. They said IC management slowing down or not wanting to take their analysis to customers, claiming that it was not well received, frustrated them. Analysts saw this as suppression of intelligence, bordering on politicization of intelligence from above. At a minimum, it is a violation of the Analytic Standard for Timeliness. ODNI leaders were focusing on presenting intelligence as part of a story arc, highlighting significant trends in a way the customers could consume, rather than reporting each individual item. The incongruity between leaders' and analysts' perceptions might not have occurred if there had been more consistent and transparent communication about analytic differences.

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(U) ODNI officials engaging with policymakers said that these customers did notice the result, particularly differences in the volume, frequency, and confidence levels of the intelligence coming from the China and Russia analytic communities on activities that, from their perspective, were very similar in their potential effects. These differences were not intentional, but a result of different collection and analysis rhythms and interpretations by analysts that do not cross-pollinate between regional issues. Subtle differences in analytic concepts, and their inconsistent application did, therefore, make a difference in how customers consumed the intelligence. Some customers were able to perceive differences in tradecraft and definitions: they asked hard questions, leading to greater scrutiny within the IC as leaders suggested changes in an attempt to make the intelligence more consistent and, in some cases, more palatable to customers. IC leaders were not consistently transparent with the workforce about some of these probably justified changes.

(U) According to interviews with NIC officials, policymakers were probably not aware of the behind-the-scenes machinations of the production and dissemination processes. These foundational analytic shortcomings contributed to instances of, and led to other instances of, at least the perceived politicization of intelligence, needlessly long review times, and differences between analytic conclusions in public statements on the one hand and established IC positions on the other. None of this happened in a vacuum, but the dispute appears to have largely begun with misapplied or inconsistent analytic definitions.

(U) *[Ombudsman Comment: Classified details on this issue can be provided at the request of the committee.]*

(U) Dissonance between Public Statements and IC Coordinated Assessments

(U) After conducting a thorough review I found several incidents where there were attempts to politicize intelligence. The most egregious example is the talking points provided alongside the written introductory statement delivered by, but not written by, National Counterintelligence and Security Center (NCSC) Director Bill Evanina on 10 March 2020. Evanina also issued a 24 July ODNI public statement on foreign election interference/influence, and a 7 August press release [for both of which, the intelligence information came from the NIC]. Analysts also referred to statements by the DNI in an 8 October article published in [The Hill](#). These statements left the impression that “the IC thinks...” when, in fact what was stated was actually, according to analysts, a “gross misrepresentation” of established IC views. According to the Director of NCSC, when asked about the IC assessments shared in his March statement and August press release, he said that he assumed they represented coordinated IC views, because NIC and other ODNI officials gave them to him and portrayed them as such. They in fact did not represent fully coordinated IC views, as discussed below.

(U) The March 10 Talking Points were drafted presumably by ODNI staff, however I was not able to find one individual who admitted to writing them. Most officials say (in the passive voice) “they were drawn from” existing reporting, albeit selectively, and were “shaped by other ODNI officials and the Ambassador [meaning A/DNI Grenell].” The main drafters were not analysts, which was probably a major contributing factor to the perceived difference between the

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talking points and the established IC view. Analysts point out that there were substantive differences between the Talking Points and what the IC actually thought. Emails show that those who drew up the talking points did partially coordinate them and were informed of analysts' concerns with them, but did not completely consider the concerns in the final version. There was widespread reluctance among intelligence professionals to deliver them. This reluctance on the part of seasoned IC officers should have been a red flag, but did not stop the statement from being issued.

(U) *[Ombudsman Comment: Classified details on this issue can be provided at the request of the committee.]*

(U) Not Following Standard Procedure for Drafting, Editing, Approval, and Dissemination

(U) Following the March Talking Points, I have identified a long story arc of – at the very least – perceived politicization of intelligence. Guidelines on special review procedures relating to election security products were promulgated by ODNI and CIA leadership, but according to interviews it appears not all analysts and managers were aware of them. Interviewees commented, if there are such guidelines they are not well promulgated. They may be known to other analysts. Three different NIC products demonstrate the overall pattern of perceived politicization stemming from the inconsistent application of definitions as outlined above. There was a neglect or refusal to re-coordinate changes, adopt alternative analyses, and include dissent language, as well as leadership's failure to communicate clearly and directly to analysts the reasoning for those changes on a consistent basis.

(U) A NIC Memo (NICM) published in May 2020 suffered from a severe slowdown and major changes to coordinated assessments in the drafting, review, and approval process. CIA analysts noted that they and a wide range of IC analysts participated fully in the early analytic work leading up to this NICM, including in the analytic line review. They feel that the first drafts of the NICM followed the general agreement of the community. Then a revised draft came back from NIC review as substantially changed, leading with intelligence gaps that seemed to undermine the threat assessment. The draft led with intelligence gaps and "buried the lead" regarding what the IC does know about election security threats. The then-NIC Chair, immediately before becoming the Principal Executive, crafted this language. In a follow-up interview, the PE stated that he did this because it was good tradecraft to lay out the analytic environment, including what is not known.

(U) Subsequently, the draft was held up by A/DNI Grenell for weeks before publication, and underwent what appears to be politically motivated editing. Analysts recounted that the NIC and DNI's changes were not fully re-coordinated with the community. The result was a final product whose delayed publication meant it diverged sharply from the up-to-date IC view communicated in other product lines. I have e-mail exchanges to document this delay, allusions to political repercussions, and frustration from intelligence professionals with the delay. These actions constitute a violation of the Analytic Standard for Timeliness, and Tradecraft Standard 7.

(U) According to interviews, the established practice does not include the DNI actively participating in the review chain for NIC Memos or Assessments. As a political appointee, there

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is a potential conflict of interest. As DNI Ratcliffe has stated, on the other hand, just because it is unusual to have DNI involvement in the review of these products does not mean it is necessarily wrong to do so. According to tradecraft standards, the DNI like any IC employee, has the right to an analytic conclusion, and provided it is supported by the intelligence. The DNI should also, when speaking publicly, adhere to good tradecraft and clearly delineate when they are sharing their own personal views versus when they are communicating a coordinated intelligence community assessment. To do otherwise would be a violation of Tradecraft Standard 3.

(U) *[Ombudsman Comment: I have not interviewed A/DNI Grenell or his staff who have departed ODNI. They are no longer under my purview as Analytic Ombudsman.]*

(U) In the August NICA, there were analytic lines from the Annual Threat Assessment (ATA – originally drafted in early 2020) which were technically accurate but not as current as what the IC had published over the previous six months in other product lines. Instead of allowing the most current IC-coordinated NICA language to drive this alignment, previously IC-coordinated ATA language was used without a re-coordination, at the instruction of the A/NIC Chair. Analysts claim that NIC leadership consistently watered down conclusions during a drawn-out review process, boosting the threat from China and making the threat from Russia sound “not too controversial.”

(U) NIC officials pointed to ODNI senior officials as intervening in the changes to conclusions, saying that they were overly sensitive to political customers who saw the dissonance between China and Russia reporting and the inconsistent application of definitions. DNI Ratcliffe just disagreed with the established analytic line on China, insisting ‘we are missing China’s influence in the US and that Chinese actions ARE intended to affect the election. DNI Ratcliffe wrote as much in his Wall Street Journal op-ed. Ultimately the DNI insisted in putting material on China in, and was aware analysts disagreed and probably still disagree. As a result, the final published NICA, analysts felt, was an outrageous misrepresentation of their analysis. DNI Ratcliffe states, “I know my conclusions are right, based on the intelligence that I see.” As the DNI states, “Many analysts think I am going off the script. They don’t realize that I did it based on the intelligence.”

(U) Two NIOs wrote a NIC Alternative Analysis Memo (NIC AOA Memo) in October 2020, which expressed alternative views on potential Chinese election influence activities. These alternative views met with considerable organizational counter pressure, which we will address later in this report. ODNI has to ensure that alternative views are expressed, even when they differ from the majority. A healthy challenge culture in the IC can foster differences of analytic views and ensure that they are shared in intelligence products, consistent with IRTPA Section 1017. In my discussions with him, DNI Ratcliffe agreed with the concerns expressed in the Alternative Analysis Memo, and was aware that most analysts did not hold that view. Not to include all intelligence would also be a violation of the IRTPA Analytic Standard D, to be “Based on All Available Sources of Intelligence.”

(U) Ombudsmen from CIA, NSA, and ODNI report the widely shared perspective among IC analysts that analysis on foreign election interference was delayed, distorted, or obstructed out of concern over policymaker reactions or for political reasons, which in their view constitutes

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politicization. These Ombudsmen agree, whether through application of highly stringent coordination and review practices or deliberate temporizing, there is a discernible pattern of delay on IC analytic production on election threat reporting. There is an inherent danger in even the perception that intelligence products were changed for political purposes. The perception of politicization undermined analysts' willingness to come forward with alternatives. This is a violation of Tradecraft Standard 4 and IRTPA Section 1017.

(U) *[Ombudsman Comment: Classified details on this issue can be provided at the request of the committee.]*

(U) Undue Influence on Analysis, Production, and Dissemination

(U) There were strong efforts to suppress analysis of alternatives (AOA) in the August NICA, and associated IC products, which is a violation of Tradecraft Standard 4 and IRTPA Section 1017. NIC officials reported that CIA officials rejected NIC coordination comments and tried to downplay analysis of alternatives in their own production during the drafting of the NICA. According to NIOs and Directors, CIA management contacted the A/NIC Chair and NIOs to suppress the NIC from caveating analytic judgments that were downplayed due to concerns about policy. As a result, these NIC officials felt the only avenue to express alternative views was via the NIC AOA Memo they authored in October 2020. During the drafting of the NIC AOA Memo, CIA management again contacted the A/NIC Chair and other NIOs on joint duty assignment from CIA (who would eventually have to return to their home agency), pressuring them to withdraw their support of the NIC AOA Memo in an attempt to suppress it. This was seen by NIOs as politicization from below, just as the A/DNI's push to bring forward evidence of what the Chinese are or were doing without apparently being supported by intelligence available to all analysts "must be politicization from above," according to an ODNI official. Politicization may be in the eye of the beholder, but my objective and independent view is that there was politicization from above and below.

(U) The NIOs and Directors faced opposition getting their views on election interference across. It is difficult to have a healthy analytic conversation in a confrontational environment. ODNI and the IC agencies involved in analysis of election interference at first failed in allowing for a challenge culture where analysis of alternatives is required and dissents are encouraged as healthy analytic tradecraft. Such actions amount to exercise, or at least the attempt to exercise, undue influence on intelligence, which is a violation of Tradecraft Standard 4. ODNI and the NIC did, to their credit, ensure that the analysis of alternatives piece and other related intelligence was published.

(U) *[Ombudsman Comment: Classified details on this issue can be provided at the request of the committee.]*

(U) Tradecraft Review

(U) Pursuant to your letter, I asked for products produced between January and October 2020 to be evaluated for compliance with Analytic Tradecraft Standards by the ODNI's Analytic Integrity and Standards Division (AIS) in exactly the same manner as any other product would

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be evaluated pursuant to IRTPA Section 1019. We found no evidence of lack of objectivity or politicization of intelligence. Indications of politicization would come out in the inquiry focused on the editing, review, and coordination behind the scenes of the final products.

(U) Historical Context

(U) Recent history gives an example of how politicization of intelligence can undermine the intelligence analysis process. Politicization of election security intelligence this year echoes the events surrounding the writing of Secretary of State Colin Powell's UN Speech to make the case to go to war with Iraq in 2003. In this historic example, politicians and political appointees had also made up their mind about an issue and spent considerable time pressuring analysts and managers to prove their thesis to the American public, with little regard for analytic tradecraft.

(U) The difference this time -- with the accusations of politicization of intelligence in 2020 -- is that analysts remember what happened in 2003. Intelligence based on bias and subjected to undue influence led to a war. In this case, analysts have reacted strongly to what they see as history repeating itself. Analysts may have lost their own objectivity because they felt they had to fight to ensure the intelligence information they provided was not misconstrued, misused, or ignored. Analysts should not be put in this position. The DNI and other ODNI senior officials must stay above the fray and protect the integrity, timeliness and objectivity of intelligence by fostering a challenge culture in which differences of analytic opinion are shared without organizational suppression or fear of retribution. The IC must produce objective intelligence and communicate it clearly to customers; however customers might use or mis-use it for policy purposes with which analysts or IC leaders may or may not agree.

(U) Conclusion

(U) Looking back over the past year, it is evident that what began as mischaracterization of IC analytic assessments by ODNI officials escalated into an ongoing widespread perception in the workforce about politicization and loss of analytic objectivity throughout the community on the topics of Russian and Chinese election influence and interference. Politicization need not be overt to be felt. This report documents the reality of both attempts to politicize and perception of politicization of intelligence.

(U) No ODNI official has stated that reviews or edits of election threat intelligence were phrased in a way that was explicitly political in nature. Rather, from the ODNI leadership perspective, officials were seeking a way to deliver intelligence in a way that the Trump Administration would consume it. Top ODNI officials faced enormous pressure to balance between IC assessments and customers' demands. This pressure filtered back down the chain and analysts perceived their work as being politicized, in contravention to the Analytic Standards for Objectivity and avoiding political considerations, in order to make intelligence more palatable to senior customers. Their response to the perceived -- and sometimes real -- attempts at politicization reflected a loss of analytic objectivity. When analysts face perceived politicization, they have recourse to report their concerns to the Ombudsman just as they have the obligation to continue to produce timely, accurate, objective intelligence with no regard for political considerations.

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(U) If our political leaders in the White House and Congress believe we are withholding intelligence because of organizational turf wars or political considerations, the legitimacy of the Intelligence Community's work is lost. Intelligence officers, even those at the highest levels, cannot allow political considerations to influence analysis, and must stand as a bulwark against all political pressures, even if the cost is that senior customers do not like what the intelligence community assesses. As PE Neil Wiley has stated (and I paraphrase), *intelligence is the only great function of state that does not come to top decision makers with an agenda, wanting something. The purpose of intelligence is to provide objective, unbiased, and policy-neutral assessments. We are, perhaps, most important to decision makers when we bring to them the bad news, or what they don't want to hear. This is an ethical challenge to intelligence professionals, and sometimes demands moral courage to carry out. Other institutions are inherently political and are much less likely to bring bad news. If we lose that objectivity, or even are perceived to have lost it, we have endangered the entire reason for us to exist.*

(U) Finally, IC officials, whether politically appointed or not, must not make statements that, implied or directly attributed, communicate the IC's analytic views when they are in fact not representative of the IC's analytic line of argument. There must be a clear distinction between the actual intelligence, the IC's analytic assessments and judgments, and personal or political opinions. DNI Ratcliffe pointed out that "objectivity needs to be on both sides of the debate. When senior leaders ask questions about analytic products that does not mean that is politicization." The IC needs to foster a stronger challenge culture to allow for alternative views and "make the IC better at what it does."

(U) This report has presented the findings of my independent Ombudsman review, in response to your letter. I have appended a set of recommendations at Annex I, based on those findings, pursuant to my authority under IRTPA Section 1020, which I have given to ODNI management to take for action. I have provided definitions in Annex II and a scope note in Annex III.

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ANNEX I**(U) Recommendations**

(U) ODNI recognizes the analytic tradecraft deficiencies related to intelligence products on election interference. These recommendations have been accepted by the DNI, and ODNI is already taking steps and is prepared to take further steps to remedy the process, communication, and education failures that led to this ombudsman complaint.

- (U) Reinforce through direct leadership communications from ODNI to the workforce as a whole, and from agency heads to all IC agencies, the importance of protecting analytic integrity and a renewed commitment to analytic objectivity and avoiding politicization in both policy and practice. Reinforce adherence to analytic tradecraft as spelled out in IRTPA Section 1019.
- (U) This issue has created across the workforce, in several agencies, skepticism and mistrust among analysts and line managers directed at agency and IC leaders. Take steps to rebuild trust through more direct leadership communication and transparency. When departing from established practices, ensure consistency in decision making that adheres to established analytic tradecraft standards, best practices, and guidelines for production and dissemination on this topic. Avoid verbal instructions, such as, "ODNI says to do it this way." Adhere to clear and defensible written instructions, and provide timely, direct, and specific feedback. Help the analytic workforce understand the balance between discretion required for this topic and the need to warn. Ensure that these guidelines and practices are written, widely disseminated, and understood. Analysts may assume that changes must be politically motivated. Better leadership communications will clarify when changes are being made NOT for political or policy reasons.
- (U) Foster a collaboration culture across the IC analytic community that expressly supports analyses of alternatives and encourages dissent when appropriate as required in IRTPA, Section 1017. Publish a memo to IC and ODNI senior leaders, managers, and analysts reminding them that when fundamental disagreements to analytic judgments exist across agencies or analytic units, the solution is to write a product that clearly articulates those disagreements, to include dissenting language and analysis of alternatives. Backchannel intimidation tactics between analysts, managers, and/or senior leadership to suppress dissenting views must be expressly forbidden.
- (U) Use the Analytic Ombudsman to sponsor dialogues between analytic elements and leadership where needed to facilitate direct communication and transparency. The Ombudsman's statutory role in IRTPA Section 1020 is to help resolve differences before they become problems.
- (U) Mandate analyst exchanges between regional election security units within agencies (e.g., Russian election security analysts spend time working with China election security analysts and vice versa) in order to facilitate the exchange of methodologies and analytic practice with the aim of providing more consistent analytic definitions across topics at the strategic level. These analytic exchanges can clarify what has been seen as inconsistent application of definitions and analytic models.

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- (U) Redouble analytic objectivity and tradecraft standards training efforts for three customer categories: new analyst training, refresher training for managers and analysts, and executive-level training. 1) Analysis 101 was once mandatory, but agencies resisted in favor of their own training. Clearly, the training going on now has been insufficient to inculcate good tradecraft – leading to this issue. This course already exists, and is overseen by the Analytic Ombudsman; 2) require an analytic standards and objectivity course prerequisite as part of completing the IC Advanced Analyst Program (ICAAP). Such a requirement will provide in-service training on analytic standards for senior analyst and managers of analysts, to better enable them to recognize and mitigate problems with objectivity and politicization. Courses already exist, that just have to be recognized within and overseen by ICAAP; 3) Provide for one expert on analytic tradecraft and objectivity to create and oversee an executive training course on analytic objectivity and tradecraft standards.
- (U) Hold IC agencies to account for improving tradecraft issues found by ODNI's assessments of analytic tradecraft conducted by AIS – and where possible by agencies own tradecraft evaluation efforts. ODNI will work through the National Intelligence Analysis Board (NIAB) to improve analytic tradecraft across the IC.

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ANNEX II:**(U) Definitions: What we mean when we say**

(U) Mandated by Section 1019 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act (IRTPA), the IC Analytic Standards guide analytic production, speak directly to the integrity of the analytic *process* that lies behind the disseminated analytic product, and to the *value* of that product to the consumer. Below are Intelligence Community Directive 203 definitions of these terms; my comments add context for this case.

- a) **(U) Objective:** Analysts must perform their functions with objectivity and with awareness of their own assumptions and reasoning. They must employ reasoning techniques and practical mechanisms that reveal and mitigate bias. Analysts should be alert to influence by existing analytic positions or judgments and must consider alternative perspectives and contrary information. Analysis should not be unduly constrained by previous judgments when new developments indicate a modification is necessary. *Ombudsman Comment: In this letter I refer to this standard and violations thereof in terms of analytic objectivity and bias.*
 - **(U) Bias:** According to the late Dick Heuer in Psychology of Intelligence Analysis, bias in intelligence is a fundamental limitation of human mental processes. These limitations cause people to employ various simplifying strategies and rules of thumb to ease the burden of mentally processing information to make judgments and decisions. In ordinary life, these simple rules of thumb are often useful in helping us deal with complexity and ambiguity. In intelligence analysis, however, bias lead to predictably faulty analytic judgments and the inability to provide objective analysis to consumers of intelligence.
- b) **(U) Independent of political consideration:** Analytic assessments must not be distorted by, nor shaped for, advocacy of a particular audience, agenda, or policy viewpoint. Analytic judgments must not be influenced by the force of preference for a particular policy. *Ombudsman Comment: In this letter I refer to this standard and violations thereof in terms of politicization and distortion.*
- c) **(U) Timely:** Analysis must be disseminated in time for it to be actionable by customers. Analytic elements have the responsibility to be continually aware of events of intelligence interest, of customer activities and schedules, and of intelligence requirements and priorities, in order to provide useful analysis at the right time. *Ombudsman Comment: In this letter I refer to this standard and violations thereof in terms of excessively delayed review times.*
- d) **(U) Based on all available sources of intelligence information:** Analysis should be informed by all relevant information available. Analytic elements should identify and address critical information gaps and work with collection activities and data providers to develop access and collection strategies. *Ombudsman Comment: In this letter I refer to this standard and violations thereof in terms of analytic tradecraft.*
- e) **(U) Implements and Exhibits Analytic Tradecraft Standards:** The nine standards as further spelled out in ICD 203, are -

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1. Properly Describes the Quality and Credibility of Underlying Sources, Data, and Methodologies
2. Properly Expresses and Explains Uncertainties Associated With Major Analytic Judgments
3. Properly Distinguishes Between Underlying Intelligence Information and Analysts' Assumptions and Judgments
4. Incorporates Analysis of Alternatives
5. Demonstrates Customer Relevance and Addresses Implications
6. Uses Clear and Logical Argumentation
7. Explains Change to or Consistency of Analytic Judgments
8. Makes Accurate Judgments and Assessments
9. Incorporates Effective Visual Information Where Appropriate

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ANNEX III

(U) Scope Note

(U) I completed a comprehensive review and ascertained accusations and documentation of attempts to alter a range of analytic products for reasons that do not follow good tradecraft. Prior to receipt of the letter, I already had begun a review based on perceived problems with politicization and violations of analytic tradecraft that were brought to my attention by Ombudsmen in three IC agencies.

(U) While Ombudsmen from other agencies do not report to me in my statutory role as ODNI Ombudsman, several of us met and conferred on these complaints and agree that aspects of these concerns fall within the IC definition of politicization. The concerns conveyed to us represent widely held views among IC officers engaged on the election threat issue and point to broadly perceived, and probably some actual instances of, politicized intelligence relating to foreign interference in US elections.

(U) I conducted listening sessions with the analysts and managers from CIA, NSA, other agencies, NIC, PDB, and ODNI leadership to obtain information surrounding the complaints filed. Some interview subjects requested anonymity, which I granted, as a condition for their sharing documentation or comments. Others asked to be identified. I also conducted confidential interviews with a number of senior IC leaders connected with this issue. I have not interviewed individuals outside the IC.

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DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, DC

SUBJECT: Views on Intelligence Community Election Security Analysis

REFERENCE: Intelligence Community Assessment: Foreign Threats to the 2020 U.S. Elections

From my unique vantage point as the individual who consumes all of the U.S. government's most sensitive intelligence on the People's Republic of China, I do not believe the majority view expressed by Intelligence Community (IC) analysts fully and accurately reflects the scope of the Chinese government's efforts to influence the 2020 U.S. federal elections.

The IC's Analytic Ombudsman issued a report, which I will reference several times below, that includes concerning revelations about the politicization of China election influence reporting and of undue pressure being brought to bear on analysts who offered an alternative view based on the intelligence. The Ombudsman's report, which is being transmitted to Congress concurrently with this Intelligence Community Assessment (ICA), also delves into a wider range of election security intelligence issues that I will not focus on here. However, the specific issues outlined below with regard to China reporting are illustrative of broader concerns. It is important for all IC leaders to foster a culture within the Community that encourages dissenting views that are supported by the intelligence. Therefore, I believe it is incumbent upon me in my role as the Director of National Intelligence to lead by example and offer my analytic assessment, alongside the majority and minority views. This letter was prepared in consultation with the Ombudsman to ensure that I am accurately articulating his findings and presenting them in their proper context.

The majority view expressed in this ICA with regard to China's actions to influence the election fall short of the mark for several specific reasons.

Analytic Standard B requires the IC to maintain "independence of political considerations." This is particularly important during times when the country is, as the Ombudsman wrote, "in a hyper partisan state." However, the Ombudsman found that:

"China analysts were hesitant to assess Chinese actions as undue influence or interference. These analysts appeared reluctant to have their analysis on China brought forward because they tend to disagree with the administration's policies, saying in effect, I don't want our intelligence used to support those policies. This behavior would constitute a violation of Analytic Standard B; Independence of Political Considerations (IRTPA Section 1019)."

Furthermore, alternative viewpoints on China's election influence efforts have not been appropriately tolerated, much less encouraged. In fact, the Ombudsman found that:

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SUBJECT: Views on Intelligence Community Election Security Analysis

"There were strong efforts to suppress analysis of alternatives (AOA) in the August [National Intelligence Council Assessment on foreign election influence], and associated IC products, which is a violation of Tradecraft Standard 4 and IRTPA Section 1017. National Intelligence Council (NIC) officials reported that Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) officials rejected NIC coordination comments and tried to downplay alternative analyses in their own production during the drafting of the NICA."

Additionally, the Ombudsman found that CIA Management took actions "pressuring [analysts] to withdraw their support" from the alternative viewpoint on China "in an attempt to suppress it. This was seen by National Intelligence Officers (NIO) as politicization," and I agree. For example, this ICA gives the false impression that the NIO Cyber is the only analyst who holds the minority view on China. He is not, a fact that the Ombudsman found during his research and interviews with stakeholders. Placing the NIO Cyber on a metaphorical island by attaching his name alone to the minority view is a testament to both his courage and to the effectiveness of the institutional pressures that have been brought to bear on others who agree with him.

Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act (IRTPA) Analytic Standard D requires that coordinated analytic products be "based on all available sources of intelligence." However, because of the highly compartmented nature of some of the relevant intelligence, some analysts' judgements reflected in the majority view are not based on the full body of reporting. Therefore the majority view falls short of IRTPA Analytic Standard D.

Tradecraft Standard 1 requires the analytic community to be consistent in the definitions applied to certain terminology, and to ensure that the definitions are properly explained. Having consumed election influence intelligence across various analytic communities, it is clear to me that different groups of analysts who focus on election threats from different countries are using different terminology to communicate the same malign actions. Specifically, definitional use of the terms "influence" and "interference" are different between the China and Russia analytic communities. The Analytic Ombudsman found that:

"Terms were applied inconsistently across the analytic community... Given analytic differences in the way Russia and China analysts examined their targets, China analysts appeared hesitant to assess Chinese actions as undue influence or interference."

As a result, similar actions by Russia and China are assessed and communicated to policymakers differently, potentially leading to the false impression that Russia sought to influence the election but China did not. This is inconsistent with Tradecraft Standard 1.

In the Ombudsman's report, he accurately acknowledged my commitment "to provide an independent avenue for analysts to pursue unbiased analysis." My approach here is not without precedent. In 1962, a National Intelligence Estimate stated that the Soviet Union was unlikely to place missiles in Cuba. Then-CIA Director John McCone forcefully disagreed with the analysts,

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and later ordered the U-2 reconnaissance flights that discovered that missiles had in fact been deployed.

In that same spirit, I am adding my voice in support of the stated minority view -- based on all available sources of intelligence, with definitions consistently applied, and reached independent of political considerations or undue pressure -- that the People's Republic of China sought to influence the 2020 U.S. federal elections, and raising the need for the Intelligence Community to address the underlying issues with China reporting outlined above.



John Ratcliffe

January 7, 2024

Date

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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE
DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY CENTER
WASHINGTON, DC

NCSC-21-007
January 7, 2021

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Acting Chairman
Select Committee on Intelligence
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark Warner
Vice Chairman
Select Committee on Intelligence
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Acting Chairman Rubio and Vice Chairman Warner:

I am writing to inform you that I am appalled by the findings contained in the January 6, 2021 letter to you from Intelligence Community (IC) Analytic Ombudsman Dr. Barry Zulauf regarding possible politicization of intelligence in connection with the 2020 U.S. elections.

I was appointed to my current role in June 2014 by Director of National Intelligence (DNI) James Clapper under the Obama Administration. In 2017, I was asked to remain in this position by DNI Dan Coats under the Trump Administration. I was later nominated and became the first Senate-confirmed Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center (NCSC). I am humbled by and proud of the bipartisan support I received during my confirmation process.

As a 24-year career law enforcement and intelligence officer who was assigned to oversee the IC's election security threat briefings in May 2020, it was vital for myself and other IC leaders to have complete trust and confidence in the intelligence we received so we could convey it objectively and without fear or favor to policymakers and the public. It is disheartening to hear that I may have been provided intelligence that was disputed by some when I was communicating with Congress and the American public about threats to the 2020 elections.

Going forward, we must ensure without fail that IC leaders can have complete faith in the intelligence they deliver to policymakers. We must also ensure that analysts are afforded the space and independence necessary to provide unbiased and objective assessments to IC leaders. I will yield to the incoming IC leadership and analytical leaders in the community to make the necessary modifications and cultural changes required to achieve this state.

For context, I feel obligated to set forth the facts surrounding some of the assertions in Dr. Zulauf's January 6, 2021 letter to you. Specifically, Dr. Zulauf alleged; "After conducting a thorough review, I found several incidents where there were attempts to politicize intelligence. The most egregious example is the talking points provided alongside the written introductory statement delivered by, but not written by, National Counterintelligence and Security Center (NCSC) Director Bill Evanina on 10 March 2020."

SUBJECT: Acting Chairman Rubio and Vice Chairman Warner

The facts of this matter are as follows:

- On Tuesday, March 10, 2020, Acting DNI Richard Grenell was scheduled to testify on election security at classified all-Senate and all-House briefings. Senior ODNI officials had been preparing testimony, Q&A and related talking points for Acting DNI Grenell for several days before the hearing.
- Less than 24 hours before the scheduled hearings, I was informed by Deputy DNI Beth Sanner that I would be testifying at the briefings, not Acting DNI Grenell. This came as a surprise to me because IC election security issues, at the time, were primarily the purview of the ODNI Election Threats Executive, not the NCSC. Nevertheless, I agreed to testify and was provided a written script to read for the classified briefings.
- The script was provided to me by the ODNI Election Threats Executive and other senior ODNI officials. I used these materials in the classified Senate and House briefings, trusting and believing they reflected the coordinated views of the IC because they had been provided to me by the DNI's top intelligence advisor, ODNI's top election threat executive and senior career intelligence officials.
- After the hearing, the ODNI posted on its public website a "Handout on Foreign Threats to U.S. Elections for Congressional Members" on March 10, 2020. I had absolutely no role in crafting these public talking points, nor were they issued under my name.

The IC Analytic Ombudsman further asserted in his letter that public statements on election security I issued on July 24, 2020 and August 7, 2020, were, according to some analysts, a "gross misrepresentation" of established IC views. The facts of this matter are as follows:

- After I was assigned in May 2020 to oversee the IC's election security threat briefings, I issued two formal, written statements to the public. In both my July 24, 2020 and August 7, 2020 public statements, I described foreign threats to the U.S. election based exclusively on language and threat information provided to me by Deputy DNI Sanner, the ODNI Election Threat Executive, the Chair of the National Intelligence Council, and other career intelligence officials representing the spectrum of IC agencies.
- Furthermore, the underlying threat language of both statements was drawn directly from the draft IC Annual Threat Assessment, which represented the coordinated views of the IC. In addition, the threat language was coordinated with and agreed to by senior officials at CIA and other IC agencies before its public release.

Throughout the election security briefing process, which included more than 20 briefings to members of Congress, the Trump and Biden campaigns, as well as the RNC and DNC, I

SUBJECT: Acting Chairman Rubio and Vice Chairman Warner

trusted and relied on upon the foreign threat language provided to me by senior intelligence experts from across the IC. I ensured these briefings were consistent and uniform regardless of the audience, and I accurately conveyed what I believed to be the established IC analytic lines at the time my statements were issued.

Throughout my career at FBI, CIA and NCSC, I have spoken truth to power, no matter the consequences and without regard to politics. I have never politicized intelligence during my career and any suggestion I would is a personal affront to me. Despite the Congressional and public criticism that came with the job of leading the IC's election security threat briefings and informing Americans of threats to their elections in a hyper-partisan environment, I have proudly maintained my integrity throughout the entire process.

Notwithstanding the findings of the IC Analytic Ombudsman, I am proud of the work of the IC and all our federal, state and local partners in keeping foreign adversaries from interfering in the 2020 U.S. elections. It is critical that the IC maintain a significant role in future efforts to secure U.S. elections against foreign threats. The integrity of the analytic process and product must be the bedrock of these efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William R. Evanina", with a stylized flourish at the end.

William R. Evanina

Ex. 65

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DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, DC

SUBJECT: Views on Intelligence Community Election Security Analysis

REFERENCE: Intelligence Community Assessment: Foreign Threats to the 2020 U.S. Elections

From my unique vantage point as the individual who consumes all of the U.S. government's most sensitive intelligence on the People's Republic of China, I do not believe the majority view expressed by Intelligence Community (IC) analysts fully and accurately reflects the scope of the Chinese government's efforts to influence the 2020 U.S. federal elections.

The IC's Analytic Ombudsman issued a report, which I will reference several times below, that includes concerning revelations about the politicization of China election influence reporting and of undue pressure being brought to bear on analysts who offered an alternative view based on the intelligence. The Ombudsman's report, which is being transmitted to Congress concurrently with this Intelligence Community Assessment (ICA), also delves into a wider range of election security intelligence issues that I will not focus on here. However, the specific issues outlined below with regard to China reporting are illustrative of broader concerns. It is important for all IC leaders to foster a culture within the Community that encourages dissenting views that are supported by the intelligence. Therefore, I believe it is incumbent upon me in my role as the Director of National Intelligence to lead by example and offer my analytic assessment, alongside the majority and minority views. This letter was prepared in consultation with the Ombudsman to ensure that I am accurately articulating his findings and presenting them in their proper context.

The majority view expressed in this ICA with regard to China's actions to influence the election fall short of the mark for several specific reasons.

Analytic Standard B requires the IC to maintain "independence of political considerations." This is particularly important during times when the country is, as the Ombudsman wrote, "in a hyper partisan state." However, the Ombudsman found that:

"China analysts were hesitant to assess Chinese actions as undue influence or interference. These analysts appeared reluctant to have their analysis on China brought forward because they tend to disagree with the administration's policies, saying in effect, I don't want our intelligence used to support those policies. This behavior would constitute a violation of Analytic Standard B: Independence of Political Considerations (IRTPA Section 1019)."

Furthermore, alternative viewpoints on China's election influence efforts have not been appropriately tolerated, much less encouraged. In fact, the Ombudsman found that:

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SUBJECT: Views on Intelligence Community Election Security Analysis

“There were strong efforts to suppress analysis of alternatives (AOA) in the August [National Intelligence Council Assessment on foreign election influence], and associated IC products, which is a violation of Tradecraft Standard 4 and IRTPA Section 1017. National Intelligence Council (NIC) officials reported that Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) officials rejected NIC coordination comments and tried to downplay alternative analyses in their own production during the drafting of the NICA.”

Additionally, the Ombudsman found that CIA Management took actions “pressuring [analysts] to withdraw their support” from the alternative viewpoint on China “in an attempt to suppress it. This was seen by National Intelligence Officers (NIO) as politicization,” and I agree. For example, this ICA gives the false impression that the NIO Cyber is the only analyst who holds the minority view on China. He is not, a fact that the Ombudsman found during his research and interviews with stakeholders. Placing the NIO Cyber on a metaphorical island by attaching his name alone to the minority view is a testament to both his courage and to the effectiveness of the institutional pressures that have been brought to bear on others who agree with him.

Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act (IRTPA) Analytic Standard D requires that coordinated analytic products be “based on all available sources of intelligence.” However, because of the highly compartmented nature of some of the relevant intelligence, some analysts’ judgements reflected in the majority view are not based on the full body of reporting. Therefore the majority view falls short of IRTPA Analytic Standard D.

Tradecraft Standard 1 requires the analytic community to be consistent in the definitions applied to certain terminology, and to ensure that the definitions are properly explained. Having consumed election influence intelligence across various analytic communities, it is clear to me that different groups of analysts who focus on election threats from different countries are using different terminology to communicate the same malign actions. Specifically, definitional use of the terms “influence” and “interference” are different between the China and Russia analytic communities. The Analytic Ombudsman found that:

“Terms were applied inconsistently across the analytic community... Given analytic differences in the way Russia and China analysts examined their targets, China analysts appeared hesitant to assess Chinese actions as undue influence or interference.”

As a result, similar actions by Russia and China are assessed and communicated to policymakers differently, potentially leading to the false impression that Russia sought to influence the election but China did not. This is inconsistent with Tradecraft Standard 1.

In the Ombudsman’s report, he accurately acknowledged my commitment “to provide an independent avenue for analysts to pursue unbiased analysis.” My approach here is not without precedent. In 1962, a National Intelligence Estimate stated that the Soviet Union was unlikely to place missiles in Cuba. Then-CIA Director John McCone forcefully disagreed with the analysts,

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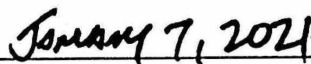
SUBJECT: Views on Intelligence Community Election Security Analysis

and later ordered the U-2 reconnaissance flights that discovered that missiles had in fact been deployed.

In that same spirit, I am adding my voice in support of the stated minority view -- based on all available sources of intelligence, with definitions consistently applied, and reached independent of political considerations or undue pressure -- that the People's Republic of China sought to influence the 2020 U.S. federal elections, and raising the need for the Intelligence Community to address the underlying issues with China reporting outlined above.



John Ratcliffe



Date

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Ex. 66

(Under Seal)

Ex. 67

(Under Seal)

Ex. 68

(Under Seal)

Ex. 69

(Under Seal)

Ex. 70

(Under Seal)