

June 1, 2026

The Honorable John E. Jones III (Ret.)
The Honorable Shira A. Scheindlin (Ret.)
Keep Our Republic
1629 K St N.W. – Suite 300
Washington D.C. 20006.

Re: Principles for the Independence of the Legal Profession

Dear Judge Scheindlin and Judge Jones:

We write as current and former deans of law schools to support the Principles for Independence of the Legal Profession. We join you and the deeply bipartisan collection of former federal judges who originally drafted and promulgated the Principles, and the larger, equally bipartisan group of former judges who have signed on since. We also acknowledge the many law professors, lawyers, corporate general counsels, as well as state and local bar organizations that have endorsed the Principles.

We are current and former deans from a range of law schools and states. We write as legal educators, responsible for training the next generation of lawyers, and are opposed to efforts that would punish lawyers or their firms based on the identity of their clients or for their lawful and ethical advocacy. Our law schools are committed to promoting public understanding of the rule of law, to fostering respect for judicial and legal processes, and to supporting the professional independence necessary for lawyers and courts to fulfill their professional responsibilities. An independent judiciary and legal profession safeguard the rights of all Americans.

We therefore agree with the preamble to the Principles and the necessity of:

[a] robust and independent bar; to ensure that all lawyers are able to carry out their duties ethically and in compliance with the rules of professional conduct; to protect and serve the effective functioning of the independent judiciary; to promote the availability of competent counsel for all parties, without regard to interest, ideology, popular support, or government disfavor; to defend the bedrock right to counsel and all the protections of the Bill of Rights; and to support the maintenance of the rule of law for all those subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

We recognize that some deans of some of our nation's law schools may be unable to join this letter, not because of disagreement over the substance of the Principles, but because of the very concerns the Principles raise, including the polarizing nature of the current environment where law schools, like law firms and judges, fear political retaliation.

This letter is signed by current and former law deans as individuals, not on behalf of law schools, universities, or other organizations, and the titles and affiliation are for identification purposes only.

Sincerely,

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