

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

PERKINS COIE LLP,

Plaintiff,

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, *et. al.*,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 25-716 (BAH)

**BRIEF OF *AMICI CURIAE* 504 LAW FIRMS IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S  
MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT AND FOR DECLARATORY AND  
PERMANENT INJUNCTION**

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**CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

*Amici curiae* are law firms and legal corporations. They have no parent corporations and do not issue stock.

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**INTEREST OF AMICI CURIAE**<sup>1</sup>

This *amicus* brief is filed on behalf of many of this Nation’s leading law firms.<sup>2</sup>

Although we do not take this step lightly, our abiding commitment to preserving the integrity of the American legal system leaves us no choice but to join together to oppose the March 6, 2025 Executive Order entitled “Addressing Risks from Perkins Coie LLP” (the “Executive Order”) that is at issue in this litigation. The Executive Order (which is now subject to a temporary restraining order) should be permanently enjoined as a violation of core First, Fifth, and Sixth Amendment guarantees, as well as bedrock separation-of-powers principles.

But something even more fundamental is at stake. In recent weeks, the President has issued not one but *five* executive orders imposing punitive sanctions on leading law firms in undisguised retaliation for representations that the firm, or its former partners, have undertaken, and more may be in the offing.<sup>3</sup> Those Orders pose a grave threat to our system of constitutional governance and to the rule of law itself. The judiciary should act with resolve—now—to ensure that this abuse of executive power ceases. Cf. *Cooper v. Aaron*, 358 U.S. 1 (1958).

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 29(a)(4)(E), *amici* certify that (1) this brief was authored entirely by counsel for *amici curiae* and not by counsel for any party, in whole or part; (2) no party or counsel for any party contributed money to fund preparing or submitting this brief; and (3) apart from counsel for *amici curiae*, no other person contributed money to fund preparing or submitting this brief.

<sup>2</sup> The individual *amici* are described in Appendix A.

<sup>3</sup> See Addressing Risks from WilmerHale, The White House (Mar. 28, 2025) (“WilmerHale Order”), <https://tinyurl.com/4m8a79jn>; Addressing Risks from Jenner & Block, The White House (Mar. 25, 2025) (“Jenner Order”), <https://tinyurl.com/u7ts9x49>; Addressing Risks from Paul Weiss, The White House (Mar. 14, 2025) (“Paul Weiss Order”), <https://tinyurl.com/5w4j69fv>; Suspension of Security Clearances and Evaluation of Government Contracts (Feb. 25, 2025), <https://tinyurl.com/3yxdmfp>.

## ARGUMENT

1. The Executive Order at issue in this case, and the others like it, take direct aim at several of the Nation’s leading law firms and seek to cow every other firm, large and small, into submission. On the basis of almost-decade-old allegations, the Executive Order subjects an entire firm, as well as its clients and personnel, to draconian punishment—including the revocation of its attorneys’ security clearances, the potential loss of clients that contract with the United States, and denial of access to federal buildings and facilities. Such disabilities would threaten the survival of any law firm.

2. The looming threat posed by the Executive Order at issue in this case and the others like it is not lost on anyone practicing law in this country today: any controversial representation challenging actions of the current administration (or even causes it disfavours) now brings with it the risk of devastating retaliation. Whatever short-term advantage an administration may gain from exercising power in this way, the rule of law cannot long endure in the climate of fear that such actions create. Our adversarial system depends upon zealous advocates litigating each side of a case with equal vigor; that is how impartial judges arrive at just, informed decisions that vindicate the rule of law. See *Legal Services Corp. v. Velazquez*, 531 U.S. 533, 545 (2001) (“An informed, independent judiciary presumes an informed, independent bar.”). In the same vein, it is a deeply held principle of the legal profession that everyone, no matter their actions or beliefs, is entitled to zealous advocacy on their behalf. See *Martinez v. Ryan*, 566 U.S. 1, 12 (2012) (“[T]he right to counsel is the foundation for our adversary system”). The principle is so deeply ingrained that lawyers—going back to John Adams’ defense of eight British soldiers who perpetrated the Boston Massacre of 1770—consider it a core part of their professional obligation to take on representation of clients with whom they disagree, even vehemently. Indeed, the

“courage” of attorneys who take on unpopular clients has long “made lawyerdom proud.”  
*Sacher v. United States*, 343 U.S. 1, 4 (1952).

The work done by *amici*, and other firms like them, is indispensable to the success of our system. Many advocate for the interests of the Nation’s leading business and financial institutions, which depend on the stability of the rule of law in order to thrive economically. Others advocate for the interests of small businesses, nonprofit organizations, consumers, workers and other individuals, and likewise depend on the impartial administration of justice to advance their clients’ objectives. Individuals at these firms hold a wide range of political, social and economic views—even with respect to the representations attacked in the executive orders. But despite those differences *amici* are united in their support for the integrity of the adversarial system and the rule of law.

3. The role of *amici* and firms like them is particularly important when a law firm represents a client challenging the actions of a president or his administration, Republican or Democratic. Checking federal government overreach, whether it be infringements on religious liberty, assaults on the freedom of the press, or burdensome regulation, is a vital part of what *amici* and others like them are called to do. By definition, such litigation brings lawyers into conflict with the policies and objectives of the Executive Branch.

Since this Court entered its Temporary Restraining Order, the Administration has redoubled its threats of retaliation against the legal profession. In that regard, the express targeting of law firm pro bono efforts in the three most recent executive orders—which attack those firms’ pro bono representations as “activities that make our communities less safe, increase burdens on local businesses, limit constitutional freedoms, and degrade the quality of American elections”—is cause for particularly acute concern. Paul Weiss Order, § 1. For our system of

justice to operate, members of the bar must be free to advocate zealously for all their clients, large and small, rich and poor, without fear of retribution. They must be free, in the words of Chief Justice Marshall, to defend “the right of every individual to claim the protection of the laws.” *Marbury v. Madison*, 5 U.S. 137, 163 (1803). Without such zealous advocacy, there is no prospect of equal justice under law.

4. History offers indelible reminders of the perils associated with governmental intrusion into the autonomy of the legal system and with political retribution aimed at lawyers thought to stand in the way of a regime’s political objectives. In too many countries and instances to name, regimes have disbarred, prosecuted and jailed lawyers who dared to represent opposition figures or challenge government actions, with predictable results for the rule of law and the integrity of the legal profession.

Fortunately, such abuses have been rare in our country’s history. Over the past two decades alone, elite law firms have represented clients seeking to invalidate major presidential initiatives, from the Military Commissions Act of 2006<sup>4</sup> to the Affordable Care Act<sup>5</sup> and the Dodd-Frank Act.<sup>6</sup> Until now, it would have been inconceivable that a law firm would risk punitive retribution from the federal government for undertaking representations of this kind. And when state or local governments have attempted to wield the threat of official retribution to deter entities from advocating for what they believe, the Supreme Court has condemned such actions in clear and decisive terms. E.g. *National Rifle Ass’n v. Vullo*, 602 U.S.175, 189 (2024) (“[T]he First Amendment prohibits government officials from relying on the threat of invoking

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<sup>4</sup> *Boumediene v. Bush*, 553 U.S. 723 (2008).

<sup>5</sup> *NFIB v. Sebelius*, 567 U.S. 519 (2012).

<sup>6</sup> *Seila Law v. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau*, 591 U.S. 197 (2020); *Consumer Financial Protection Bureau v. Community Financial Services Ass’n*, 601 U.S. 416 (2024).



legal sanctions and other means of coercion ... to achieve the suppression of disfavored speech.” (citation omitted)). But that proud tradition is in jeopardy. Unless the judiciary acts decisively now, what was once beyond the pale will in short order become a stark reality. Corporations and individuals alike will risk losing their right to be represented by the law firms of their choice and a profound chill will be cast over the First Amendment right to petition the courts for redress.

5. Like every lawyer, the members of the *amicus* law firms have sworn an oath to uphold the Constitution and to discharge the obligations of the profession to the best of our ability. That oath obligates all of us, no matter our political views, to be faithful custodians of our Nation’s commitment to the rule of law—a commitment that has made it possible for this Nation’s corporations to lead the world in innovation and productivity; for our scientists, scholars and creative artists to contribute so much to human progress; and for all of us to know that we can turn to the courts to vindicate our fundamental civil rights. We therefore feel a special responsibility to stand up now to the unprecedented threat posed by the Executive Order at issue in this case and the others like it.

### **CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, this Court should grant the motion for permanent injunction.

Dated: April 4, 2025

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**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**

I hereby certify that the foregoing complies with Local Civil Rule 7(o)(4) and does not exceed 25 pages. I further certify that the attached *amicus* brief complies with the typeface and type style requirements of Local Rule 5.1(d) because it has been prepared in a proportionally spaced typeface using Microsoft Word and 12-point Times New Roman font.

Dated: April 4, 2025

/s/ Donald B. Verrilli, Jr.

Donald B. Verrilli, Jr.

# **APPENDIX A**

**List of Amici Curiae**

300degrees PLLC  
Advocate Law Group P.C.  
Ajamie LLP  
Aldous Law  
Ali & Lockwood LLP  
ALR Civil Rights LLC  
Alto Litigation  
Altshuler Berzon LLP  
Anapol Weiss  
Anderson & Kreiger LLP  
Andrus Anderson LLP  
Andrus Wagstaff, PC  
Arete Law Group PLLC  
Arguedas, Cassman, Headley & Goldman LLP  
Armond Wilson LLP  
Arnold & Porter  
Arrowood LLP  
Arshack, Hajek & Lehrman, PLLC  
Ascherman Law  
Aviso Legal Group LLP  
Aylstock, Witkin, Kreis and Overholtz, PLLC  
Bailey & Glasser, LLP  
Banashek Irving & McNutt, LLP  
Bangos Law Firm, P.A.  
Bangs, McCullen, Butler, Foye & Simmons, LLP  
Bantle & Levy LLP  
Barrientos PC  
Baughman Kroup Bosse PLLC  
Beale, Micheaels, Slack & Shughart, P.C.  
Bedell, Dittmar, DeVault, Pillans & Cox, P. A.  
Beeman & Muchmore, LLP  
Berger Montague PC  
Berman Tabacco  
Bernstein & Gordon LLP  
Beveridge & Diamond, P.C.  
Binder & Schwartz LLP  
Bird, Marella, Rhow, Lincenberg, Drooks & Nessim, LLP  
Birrell Law Firm PLLC  
BLL LLP  
Bloom Law PLLC  
Blumberg Law Corporation  
Bondurant, Mixson & Elmore  
Botkin Chiarello Calaf PLLC  
Bradley Bernstein Sands LLP  
Brandt Law, PLLC

BraunHagey & Borden LLP  
Breskin Johnson & Townsend  
Brian L. Tannebaum, P.A.  
Broadband Legal Strategies, LLC  
BrotmanLaw, PLLC  
Brown, Goldstein & Levy, LLP  
Bryan Schwartz Law, P.C.  
Burgess Law PC  
Cade Law Group LLC  
Caffrey Hill, PLLC  
Caldwell LLP  
Cannon & Dunphy  
Caplan Cobb LLC  
Casey Gerry Francavilla Blatt LLP  
Charhon Callahan Robson & Garza, PLLC  
Charles J. Kettlewell LLC  
Charles S. Tusa PLLC  
Ciresi Conlin LLP  
Civil Rights Litigation Group, PLLC  
Clapp, Moroney, Vucinich, Beeman + Scheley  
Clarick Gueron Reisbaum LLP  
Clark Smith Villazor LLP  
Clarke Johnston Thorp & Rice, PPC  
Clayman Rosenberg Kirshner & Linder LLP  
Clean Energy Counsel, LLP  
Clifford Law Offices, P.C.  
Clinton & Peed  
Coast Law Group, LLP  
Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP  
Cochran Law Group  
Cohen Hirsch LP  
Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll PLLC  
Cohen Williams LLP  
Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley  
Commins, Knudsen & Chou  
Complex Appellate Litigation Group LLP  
Conrad | Metlitzky | Kane LLP  
Coogan Gallagher  
Coopers LLP  
Coppersmith Brockelman PLC  
Corr Cronin LLP  
Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy, LLP  
Covington & Burling LLP  
Cowan DeBaets Abrahams & Sheppard LLP  
Crain Brogdon, LLP  
Creative Criminal Defense Consultants

Crowell & Moring LLP  
Cultural Heritage Partners, PLLC  
Cummins & Cummins, LLP  
Curcio Law, PLLC  
Daar & Newman, a Professional Law Corporation  
David Corbett PLLC  
Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP  
Davis Levin Livingston  
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP  
DEH Law, PLLC  
Deutsch Hunt PLLC  
DMC Law, LLC  
Donahue, Goldberg & Herzog  
Dorsay & Easton LLP  
Doyle Dennis Avery LLP  
Dreher Law Firm  
Dreyer Babich Buccola Wood Campora, LLP  
Eagle Team LLP  
Edelson PC  
EDGE, A Professional Law Corporation  
Edward R. Shaw P.A.  
Ehrlich & Craig LLP  
Eimer Stahl LLP  
Emery Celli Brinckerhoff Abady Ward & Maazel LLP  
Equity Litigation Group LLP  
Eric Maxfield Law, LLC  
Esler Stephens & Buckley LLP  
Estes Law Group  
Ezkovich & Co., LLC  
Faraci Lange, LLP  
Farella Braun + Martel LLP  
Faughnan Law, PLLC  
Feinberg, Jackson, Worthman & Wasow LLP  
Fenwick & West LLP  
Finkel Law Group P.C.  
Fisher Taubenfeld LLP  
Foley Hoag  
Folger Levin LLP  
Forsgren Fisher McCalmont DeMarea Tysver LLP  
Fox & Robertson, PC  
Frank Freed Subit & Thomas  
Frankel PLLC  
Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz  
Freedman Boyd Hollander & Goldberg P.A.  
FreelandLaw LLP  
Freshfields US LLP

Friedemann Goldberg Wargo Hess LLP  
Friedman | Rubin, PLLP  
Gainey Law, PLLC  
Gair Gair Conason Rubinstein Bloom Hershenhorn Steigman & Mackauf  
Galihier DeRobertis & Waxman LLP  
Gallagher Evelius & Jones LLP  
Garmey Law  
Getman, Sweeney & Dunn, PLLC  
Gibbs Mura LLP  
Gingras, Thomsen & Wachs, LLP  
Girard Sharp LLP  
Gish PLLC  
Giskan Solotaroff & Anderson LLP  
Glaser Weil Fink Howard Jordan & Shapiro LLP  
Gleason, Dunn, Walsh & O'Shea  
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GrahamHollis, APC  
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Graves, Dougherty, Hearon & Moody, P.C.  
Green & Willstatter  
Greenblatt Law LLC  
Greene Broillet & Wheeler, LLP  
Greene Espel PLLP  
Greenspun Shapiro Ginsberg & Yang PC  
Groombridge, Wu, Baughman and Stone LLP  
Gross & Belsky PC  
Grossman LLP  
Grossman Roth Yaffa Cohen  
Gupta Wessler LLP  
Gustafson Gluek, PLLC  
GVR Partners LLP  
Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro LLP  
Hanson Bridgett LLP  
Hanson Crawford Crum Family Law Group, LLP  
Hanusz Law, PC  
Harris St. Laurent & Wechsler LLP  
Hausfeld LLP  
Hecker Fink LLP  
Hepworth Holzer, LLP  
Hinman Legal PC  
Hirschfeld Kraemer LLP  
HKM Employment Attorneys LLP



Holland, Holland Edwards & Grossman, LLC  
Holmes Costin & Marcus PLLC  
Holwell Shuster & Goldberg LLP  
Hoq Law APC  
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Kaplan Martin LLP  
Katz Banks Kumin LLP  
Kaufman Lieb Lebowitz & Frick  
KBM Law  
Keker, Van Nest & Peters LLP  
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Keller Grover LLP  
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Kendall Brill & Kelly LLP  
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Levine Lee LLP  
Lewis & Lin, LLC  
Lewis Baach Kaufmann Middlemiss  
Libby Hoopes Brooks & Mulvey, P.C.  
Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP  
Lisa Cahill PLLC  
Littlepage Booth  
Livelihood Law, LLC  
Lockridge Grindal Nauen PLLP  
Loevy & Loevy  
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LoVerde Law, LLC  
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MacDonald Hoague & Bayless  
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Mancini Shenk LLP  
Marino & Weiss, P.C.  
Markowitz Herbold PC  
Marshall & Saunders, P.S.  
Marziani, Stevens & Gonzalez PLLC  
Maslon LLP  
Massey & Gail LLP  
McDowell Rackner Gibson PC  
McGillivray Steele Elkin LLP  
McHugh Law, PLLC  
McNaul Ebel Nawrot & Helgren PLLC  
Mehri & Skalet, PLLC  
Melnik Legal  
Michael A Jacobson, PS Inc.  
Michael Broad  
Miller Korzenik Sommers Rayman LLP  
Miller Nash LLP  
Miller Shakman Levine & Feldman LLP  
Miner Barnhill & Galland, PC  
Monchamp Meldrum LLP  
Moses & Moses, P.C.  
Moskowitz Colson Ginsberg & Schulman

Motley Rice LLC  
Moya Law Firm  
Munger, Tolles, & Olson LLP  
Munley Law PC  
Nace Law Group  
Nachawati Law Group PLLC  
Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg LLP  
Neill Schwerin Boxerman, P.C.  
Nelson & Fraenkel LLP  
Newman McNulty  
Nichols Kaster, PLLP  
Northern Justice Project, LLC  
Ogborn Mihm, LLP  
Olson Grimsley Kawanabe Hinchcliff & Murray LLC  
O'Malley & Madden, P.C.  
Orange Law Offices, P.C.  
Orsus Gate LLP  
Outten & Golden LLP  
Pacific Northwest Law LLP  
Pacifica Law Group LLP  
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Paradise Law Group, PC  
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Persyn Law & Policy  
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Petrillo Klein + Boxer LLP  
Pfeiffer Rudolf LLC  
Phillips & Paolicelli  
Podhurst Orseck, P.A.  
Pope McGlamry, P.C.  
Price Law, LLC  
Purchase, George & Murphey, P.C.  
Rafferty Domnick Cunningham Yaffa  
Rathod Mohamedbhai LLC  
REH Legal  
Reitler Kailas & Rosenblatt LLP  
Rekhi and Wolk  
Relman Colfax PLLC  
Richards Carrington, LLC  
Ritz Clark & Ben-Asher LLP

Riviera Law and Mediation  
Rizio, Lipinsky, Heiting PC  
Robbins LLP  
Roberts Disability Law, P.C.  
Rogers Joseph O'Donnell  
Romanucci & Blandin, LLC  
Rosen Bien Galvan & Grunfeld LLP  
Rosenberg Martin Greenberg, LLP  
Roxanne Conlin & Associates, P.C.  
Rudy, Exelrod, Zieff & Lowe, LLP  
Ruiz & Smart LLP  
Russ Perisho, PLLC  
Russell & Woofter LLC  
Salahi PC  
Sall Spencer Callas & Krueger, ALC  
Salvatore Prescott Porter & Porter, PLLC  
Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard P.C.  
Sandler Reiff Lamb Rosenstein & Birkenstock, PC  
Sanger, Hanley, Sanger & Avila, LLP  
Sarafa Law PLLC  
Scale LLP  
Schindler Cohen & Hochman LLP  
Schroeter, Goldmark & Bender, P.S.  
Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt, P.C.  
Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley, P.A.  
Seeskin Law LLC  
Segal & Amos, PLLC  
Sentner Safran LLP  
Sercarz & Riopelle, LLP  
Serpe LLC  
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Shaheen & Gordon  
Sharp Law Firm, P.A.  
Shartsis Friese LLP  
Sher Tremonte LLP  
Shinder Cantor Lerner LLP  
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Shreefer Law Firm, LLC  
Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP  
Sideman & Bancroft  
Sitara Human Rights Law  
Slater Legal PLLC  
Smith & Marjanovic Law LLC  
Smith LaCien LLP  
Smith Mullin, P.C.  
Smith Partners PLLP

Solow, PLLC  
Spark Justice Law LLC  
Spear Wilderman, P.C.  
Spera Law Group, LLC  
Sperling Kenny Nachwalter, LLC  
Spertus, Landes & Josephs, LLP  
Spiegel & McDiarmid LLP  
Stapleton Segal Cochran LLC  
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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

JENNER & BLOCK LLP,

Plaintiff,

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, *et. al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. 1:25-cv-00916-JDB

**BRIEF OF *AMICI CURIAE* OF 807 LAW FIRMS IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S  
MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT AND FOR DECLARATORY AND  
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**CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

*Amici curiae* are law firms and legal corporations. They have no parent corporations and do not issue stock.

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**INTEREST OF *AMICI CURIAE*<sup>1</sup>**

This *amicus* brief is filed on behalf of many of this Nation’s leading law firms.<sup>2</sup>

Although we do not take this step lightly, our abiding commitment to preserving the integrity of the American legal system leaves us no choice but to join together to oppose the March 25, 2025 Executive Order entitled “Addressing Risks from Jenner & Block” (the “Executive Order”) that is at issue in this litigation. The Executive Order (which is now subject to a temporary restraining order) should be permanently enjoined as a violation of core First, Fifth, and Sixth Amendment guarantees, as well as bedrock separation-of-powers principles.

But something even more fundamental is at stake. In recent weeks, the President has issued not one but *six* executive orders imposing punitive sanctions on leading law firms in undisguised retaliation for representations that the firm, or its former partners, have undertaken, and more may be in the offing.<sup>3</sup> Those Orders pose a grave threat to our system of constitutional governance and to the rule of law itself. The judiciary should act with resolve—now—to ensure that this abuse of executive power ceases. Cf. *Cooper v. Aaron*, 358 U.S. 1 (1958).

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 29(a)(4)(E), *amici* certify that (1) this brief was authored entirely by counsel for *amici curiae* and not by counsel for any party, in whole or part; (2) no party or counsel for any party contributed money to fund preparing or submitting this brief; and (3) apart from counsel for *amici curiae*, no other person contributed money to fund preparing or submitting this brief.

<sup>2</sup> The individual *amici* are described in Appendix A.

<sup>3</sup> See Addressing Risks from Perkins Coie LLP, The White House (Mar. 6, 2025) (“Perkins Coie Order”), <https://tinyurl.com/3jabz9vu>; Addressing Risks from WilmerHale, The White House (Mar. 28, 2025) (“WilmerHale Order”), <https://tinyurl.com/4m8a79jn>; Addressing Risks from Paul Weiss, The White House (Mar. 14, 2025) (“Paul Weiss Order”), <https://tinyurl.com/5w4j69fv>; Suspension of Security Clearances and Evaluation of Government Contracts (Feb. 25, 2025), <https://tinyurl.com/3yxdrmfj>; Addressing Risks from Susman Godfrey, The White House (April 9, 2025), <https://tinyurl.com/278knbkz>.

## ARGUMENT

1. The Executive Order at issue in this case, and the others like it, take direct aim at several of the Nation’s leading law firms and seek to cow every other firm, large and small, into submission. On the basis of vague and unsubstantiated allegations, the Executive Order subjects an entire firm, as well as its clients and personnel, to draconian punishment—including the revocation of its attorneys’ security clearances, the potential loss of clients that contract with the United States, and denial of access to federal buildings and facilities. Such disabilities would threaten the survival of any law firm.

2. The looming threat posed by the Executive Order at issue in this case and the others like it is not lost on anyone practicing law in this country today: any controversial representation challenging actions of the current administration (or even causes it disfavors) now brings with it the risk of devastating retaliation. Whatever short-term advantage an administration may gain from exercising power in this way, the rule of law cannot long endure in the climate of fear that such actions create. Our adversarial system depends upon zealous advocates litigating each side of a case with equal vigor; that is how impartial judges arrive at just, informed decisions that vindicate the rule of law. See *Legal Services Corp. v. Velazquez*, 531 U.S. 533, 545 (2001) (“An informed, independent judiciary presumes an informed, independent bar.”). In the same vein, it is a deeply held principle of the legal profession that everyone, no matter their actions or beliefs, is entitled to zealous advocacy on their behalf. See *Martinez v. Ryan*, 566 U.S. 1, 12 (2012) (“[T]he right to counsel is the foundation for our adversary system.”). The principle is so deeply ingrained that lawyers—going back to John Adams’ defense of eight British soldiers who perpetrated the Boston Massacre of 1770—consider it a core part of their professional obligation to take on representation of clients with whom they disagree, even vehemently. Indeed, the

“courage” of attorneys who take on unpopular clients has long “made lawyerdom proud.” *Sacher v. United States*, 343 U.S. 1, 4 (1952).

The work done by *amici*, and other firms like them, is indispensable to the success of our system. Many advocate for the interests of the Nation’s leading business and financial institutions, which depend on the stability of the rule of law in order to thrive economically. Others advocate for the interests of small businesses, nonprofit organizations, consumers, workers and other individuals, and likewise depend on the impartial administration of justice to advance their clients’ objectives. Individuals at these firms hold a wide range of political, social and economic views—even with respect to the representations attacked in the executive orders. But despite those differences *amici* are united in their support for the integrity of the adversarial system and the rule of law.

3. The role of *amici* and firms like them is particularly important when a law firm represents a client challenging the actions of a president or his administration, Republican or Democratic. Checking federal government overreach, whether it be infringements on religious liberty, assaults on the freedom of the press, or burdensome regulation, is a vital part of what *amici* and others like them are called to do. By definition, such litigation brings lawyers into conflict with the policies and objectives of the Executive Branch.

Since the Court entered its Temporary Restraining Order in the Perkins Coie case, the Administration has redoubled its threats of retaliation against the legal profession. In that regard, the express targeting of law firm pro bono efforts in the four most recent executive orders, including in the executive order against Jenner & Block at issue in this case—which alleged that the firm has “abused its pro bono practice to engage in activities that undermine justice and the interests of the United States”—is cause for particularly acute concern. Jenner Order, § 1. For

our system of justice to operate, members of the bar must be free to advocate zealously for all their clients, large and small, rich and poor, without fear of retribution. They must be free, in the words of Chief Justice Marshall, to defend “the right of every individual to claim the protection of the laws.” *Marbury v. Madison*, 5 U.S. 137, 163 (1803). Without such zealous advocacy, there is no prospect of equal justice under law.

4. History offers indelible reminders of the perils associated with governmental intrusion into the autonomy of the legal system and with political retribution aimed at lawyers thought to stand in the way of a regime’s political objectives. In too many countries and instances to name, regimes have disbarred, prosecuted and jailed lawyers who dared to represent opposition figures or challenge government actions, with predictable results for the rule of law and the integrity of the legal profession.

Fortunately, such abuses have been rare in our country’s history. Over the past two decades alone, elite law firms have represented clients seeking to invalidate major presidential initiatives, from the Military Commissions Act of 2006<sup>4</sup> to the Affordable Care Act<sup>5</sup> and the Dodd-Frank Act.<sup>6</sup> Until now, it would have been inconceivable that a law firm would risk punitive retribution from the federal government for undertaking representations of this kind. And when state or local governments have attempted to wield the threat of official retribution to deter entities from advocating for what they believe, the Supreme Court has condemned such actions in clear and decisive terms. E.g. *National Rifle Ass’n v. Vullo*, 602 U.S. 175, 189 (2024) (“[T]he First Amendment prohibits government officials from relying on the threat of invoking

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<sup>4</sup> *Boumediene v. Bush*, 553 U.S. 723 (2008).

<sup>5</sup> *NFIB v. Sebelius*, 567 U.S. 519 (2012).

<sup>6</sup> *Seila Law LLC v. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau*, 591 U.S. 197 (2020); *Consumer Financial Protection Bureau v. Community Financial Services Ass’n*, 601 U.S. 416 (2024).



legal sanctions and other means of coercion ... to achieve the suppression of disfavored speech.” (citation omitted)). But that proud tradition is in jeopardy. Unless the judiciary acts decisively now, what was once beyond the pale will in short order become a stark reality. Corporations and individuals alike will risk losing their right to be represented by the law firms of their choice and a profound chill will be cast over the First Amendment right to petition the courts for redress.

5. Like every lawyer, the members of the *amicus* law firms have sworn an oath to uphold the Constitution and to discharge the obligations of the profession to the best of our ability. That oath obligates all of us, no matter our political views, to be faithful custodians of our Nation’s commitment to the rule of law—a commitment that has made it possible for this Nation’s corporations to lead the world in innovation and productivity; for our scientists, scholars and creative artists to contribute so much to human progress; and for all of us to know that we can turn to the courts to vindicate our fundamental civil rights. We therefore feel a special responsibility to stand up now to the unprecedented threat posed by the Executive Order at issue in this case and the others like it.

### **CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, this Court should grant the motion for summary judgment and for declaratory and permanent injunctive relief.

Dated: April 11, 2025

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**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**

I hereby certify that the foregoing complies with Local Civil Rule 7(o)(4) and does not exceed 25 pages. I further certify that the attached *amicus* brief complies with the typeface and type style requirements of Local Rule 5.1(d) because it has been prepared in a proportionally spaced typeface using Microsoft Word and 12-point Times New Roman font.

Dated: April 11, 2025

/s/ Donald B. Verrilli, Jr.

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**APPENDIX A**

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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

WILMER CUTLER PICKERING HALE  
AND DORR LLP,

Plaintiff,

v.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE  
PRESIDENT, *et. al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. 1:25-cv-917-RJL

**BRIEF OF *AMICI CURIAE* OF 808 LAW FIRMS IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S  
MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

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**CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

*Amici curiae* are law firms and legal corporations. They have no parent corporations and do not issue stock.



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**INTEREST OF AMICI CURIAE**<sup>1</sup>

This *amicus* brief is filed on behalf of many of this Nation’s leading law firms.<sup>2</sup>

Although we do not take this step lightly, our abiding commitment to preserving the integrity of the American legal system leaves us no choice but to join together to oppose the March 27, 2025 Executive Order entitled “Addressing Risks from WilmerHale” (the “Executive Order”) that is at issue in this litigation. The Executive Order (which is now subject to a temporary restraining order) should be permanently enjoined as a violation of core First, Fifth, and Sixth Amendment guarantees, as well as bedrock separation-of-powers principles.

But something even more fundamental is at stake. In recent weeks, the President has issued not one but *six* executive orders imposing punitive sanctions on leading law firms in undisguised retaliation for representations that the firm, or its former partners, have undertaken, and more may be in the offing.<sup>3</sup> Those Orders pose a grave threat to our system of constitutional governance and to the rule of law itself. The judiciary should act with resolve—now—to ensure that this abuse of executive power ceases. Cf. *Cooper v. Aaron*, 358 U.S. 1 (1958).

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 29(a)(4)(E), *amici* certify that (1) this brief was authored entirely by counsel for *amici curiae* and not by counsel for any party, in whole or part; (2) no party or counsel for any party contributed money to fund preparing or submitting this brief; and (3) apart from counsel for *amici curiae*, no other person contributed money to fund preparing or submitting this brief.

<sup>2</sup> The individual *amici* are described in Appendix A.

<sup>3</sup> See Addressing Risks from Perkins Coie LLP, The White House (Mar. 6, 2025) (“Perkins Coie Order”), <https://tinyurl.com/3jabz9vu>; Addressing Risks from Jenner & Block, The White House (Mar. 25, 2025) (“Jenner Order”), <https://tinyurl.com/u7ts9x49>; Addressing Risks from Paul Weiss, The White House (Mar. 14, 2025) (“Paul Weiss Order”), <https://tinyurl.com/5w4j69fv>; Suspension of Security Clearances and Evaluation of Government Contracts (Feb. 25, 2025), <https://tinyurl.com/3yxdrmf>; Addressing Risks from Susman Godfrey, The White House (April 9, 2025), <https://tinyurl.com/278knbkz>.

## ARGUMENT

1. The Executive Order at issue in this case, and the others like it, take direct aim at several of the Nation’s leading law firms and seek to cow every other firm, large and small, into submission. On the basis of vague and unsubstantiated allegations, the Executive Order subjects an entire firm, as well as its clients and personnel, to draconian punishment—including the revocation of its attorneys’ security clearances, the potential loss of clients that contract with the United States, and denial of access to federal buildings and facilities. Such disabilities would threaten the survival of any law firm.

2. The looming threat posed by the Executive Order at issue in this case and the others like it is not lost on anyone practicing law in this country today: any controversial representation challenging actions of the current administration (or even causes it disfavors) now brings with it the risk of devastating retaliation. Whatever short-term advantage an administration may gain from exercising power in this way, the rule of law cannot long endure in the climate of fear that such actions create. Our adversarial system depends upon zealous advocates litigating each side of a case with equal vigor; that is how impartial judges arrive at just, informed decisions that vindicate the rule of law. See *Legal Services Corp. v. Velazquez*, 531 U.S. 533, 545 (2001) (“An informed, independent judiciary presumes an informed, independent bar.”). In the same vein, it is a deeply held principle of the legal profession that everyone, no matter their actions or beliefs, is entitled to zealous advocacy on their behalf. See *Martinez v. Ryan*, 566 U.S. 1, 12 (2012) (“[T]he right to counsel is the foundation for our adversary system.”). The principle is so deeply ingrained that lawyers—going back to John Adams’ defense of eight British soldiers who perpetrated the Boston Massacre of 1770—consider it a core part of their professional obligation to take on representation of clients with whom they disagree, even vehemently. Indeed, the

“courage” of attorneys who take on unpopular clients has long “made lawyerdom proud.” *Sacher v. United States*, 343 U.S. 1, 4 (1952).

The work done by *amici*, and other firms like them, is indispensable to the success of our system. Many advocate for the interests of the Nation’s leading business and financial institutions, which depend on the stability of the rule of law in order to thrive economically. Others advocate for the interests of small businesses, nonprofit organizations, consumers, workers and other individuals, and likewise depend on the impartial administration of justice to advance their clients’ objectives. Individuals at these firms hold a wide range of political, social and economic views—even with respect to the representations attacked in the executive orders. But despite those differences *amici* are united in their support for the integrity of the adversarial system and the rule of law.

3. The role of *amici* and firms like them is particularly important when a law firm represents a client challenging the actions of a president or his administration, Republican or Democratic. Checking federal government overreach, whether it be infringements on religious liberty, assaults on the freedom of the press, or burdensome regulation, is a vital part of what *amici* and others like them are called to do. By definition, such litigation brings lawyers into conflict with the policies and objectives of the Executive Branch.

Since the Court entered its Temporary Restraining Order in the Perkins Coie case, the Administration has redoubled its threats of retaliation against the legal profession. In that regard, the express targeting of law firm pro bono efforts in the four most recent executive orders, including in the executive order against WilmerHale at issue in this case—which alleged that the firm has “abused its pro bono practice to engage in activities that undermine justice and the interests of the United States”—is cause for particularly acute concern. WilmerHale Order, § 1.

For our system of justice to operate, members of the bar must be free to advocate zealously for all their clients, large and small, rich and poor, without fear of retribution. They must be free, in the words of Chief Justice Marshall, to defend “the right of every individual to claim the protection of the laws.” *Marbury v. Madison*, 5 U.S. 137, 163 (1803). Without such zealous advocacy, there is no prospect of equal justice under law.

4. History offers indelible reminders of the perils associated with governmental intrusion into the autonomy of the legal system and with political retribution aimed at lawyers thought to stand in the way of a regime’s political objectives. In too many countries and instances to name, regimes have disbarred, prosecuted and jailed lawyers who dared to represent opposition figures or challenge government actions, with predictable results for the rule of law and the integrity of the legal profession.

Fortunately, such abuses have been rare in our country’s history. Over the past two decades alone, elite law firms have represented clients seeking to invalidate major presidential initiatives, from the Military Commissions Act of 2006<sup>4</sup> to the Affordable Care Act<sup>5</sup> and the Dodd-Frank Act.<sup>6</sup> Until now, it would have been inconceivable that a law firm would risk punitive retribution from the federal government for undertaking representations of this kind. And when state or local governments have attempted to wield the threat of official retribution to deter entities from advocating for what they believe, the Supreme Court has condemned such actions in clear and decisive terms. E.g. *National Rifle Ass’n v. Vullo*, 602 U.S. 175, 189 (2024) (“[T]he First Amendment prohibits government officials from relying on the threat of invoking

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<sup>4</sup> *Boumediene v. Bush*, 553 U.S. 723 (2008).

<sup>5</sup> *NFIB v. Sebelius*, 567 U.S. 519 (2012).

<sup>6</sup> *Seila Law LLC v. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau*, 591 U.S. 197 (2020); *Consumer Financial Protection Bureau v. Community Financial Services Ass’n*, 601 U.S. 416 (2024).

legal sanctions and other means of coercion ... to achieve the suppression of disfavored speech.” (citation omitted)). But that proud tradition is in jeopardy. Unless the judiciary acts decisively now, what was once beyond the pale will in short order become a stark reality. Corporations and individuals alike will risk losing their right to be represented by the law firms of their choice and a profound chill will be cast over the First Amendment right to petition the courts for redress.

5. Like every lawyer, the members of the *amicus* law firms have sworn an oath to uphold the Constitution and to discharge the obligations of the profession to the best of our ability. That oath obligates all of us, no matter our political views, to be faithful custodians of our Nation’s commitment to the rule of law—a commitment that has made it possible for this Nation’s corporations to lead the world in innovation and productivity; for our scientists, scholars and creative artists to contribute so much to human progress; and for all of us to know that we can turn to the courts to vindicate our fundamental civil rights. We therefore feel a special responsibility to stand up now to the unprecedented threat posed by the Executive Order at issue in this case and the others like it.

### **CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, this Court should grant the motion for summary judgment.



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**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**

I hereby certify that the foregoing complies with Local Civil Rule 7(o)(4) and does not exceed 25 pages. I further certify that the attached *amicus* brief complies with the typeface and type style requirements of Local Rule 5.1(d) because it has been prepared in a proportionally spaced typeface using Microsoft Word and 12-point Times New Roman font.

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# **APPENDIX A**

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Sideman & Bancroft LLP  
Silver Golub & Teitell LLP  
Singleton Schreiber LLP  
Sitara Human Rights Law  
Skikos, Crawford, Skikos & Joseph LLP  
SL Phillips Law PLLC  
Slager Madry LLC  
Slarskey LLC  
Slater Legal PLLC  
Slaton Roebuck, PLLC  
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Spiegel & McDiarmid LLP  
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Stulberg & Walsh, LLP  
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Sunstein LLP  
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The Advani Law Firm  
The Avanzado Law Firm, APLC  
The Banks Law Firm, P.A.  
The Basile Law Firm  
The Coopersmith Law Firm, LLP  
The deRubertis Law Firm, APC  
The Employment Law Group, PC  
The Fernandez Firm, PL  
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The Law Office of Deborah M. Golden (Golden Law)  
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The Law Offices of Eric J. Moutz, LLC  
The Law Offices of John Burton  
The Law Offices of Peter Swarth  
The Law Offices of Seth P. Chazin  
The Maddox Firm LLC  
The Noble Law Firm  
The Norton Law Firm PC

The Paer Law Group, APC  
The Prinz Law Firm, P.C.  
The Ringler Law Firm  
The Rossman Firm LLC  
The Ryder Law Firm, LLC  
The Schaps Law Office, A.P.C.  
The Seltzer Law Firm  
The Soto Law Office, LLC  
The Spiggle Law Firm  
The Villegas Law Firm, APC  
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Thomas Gratz, Attorney at Law  
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Todd & Weld LLP  
Tonkon Torp LLP  
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Trine Law Firm LLC  
Trister, Ross, Schadler & Gold, PLLC  
Tymann, Davis & Duffy LLP  
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Van Kampen Law, PC  
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VII & IX, A Professional Law Corporation  
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Visible Law LLC  
Vladeck, Raskin & Clark, PC  
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Windy City Trial Group  
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Wisniewski & Associates, LLC  
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Yow PC  
Zalkind Duncan & Bernstein LLP  
Zimmer, Citron & Clarke LLP  
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Zitrin Law Office  
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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

SUSMAN GODFREY LLP,

Plaintiff,

v.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE  
PRESIDENT, *et. al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. 1:25-cv-1107-LLA

**BRIEF OF *AMICI CURIAE* 884 LAW FIRMS IN SUPPORT OF  
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**CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

*Amici curiae* are law firms and legal corporations. They have no parent corporations and do not issue stock.

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**INTEREST OF *AMICI CURIAE*<sup>1</sup>**

This *amicus* brief is filed on behalf of many of this Nation’s leading law firms.<sup>2</sup> Although we do not take this step lightly, our abiding commitment to preserving the integrity of the American legal system leaves us no choice but to join together to oppose the April 9, 2025 Executive Order entitled “Addressing Risks from Susman Godfrey”<sup>3</sup> that is at issue in this litigation. The Executive Order (which is now subject to a temporary restraining order) should be permanently enjoined as a violation of core First, Fifth, and Sixth Amendment guarantees, as well as bedrock separation-of-powers principles.

But something even more fundamental is at stake. In recent weeks, the President has issued not one but *six* executive directives<sup>4</sup> imposing punitive sanctions on leading law firms in undisguised retaliation for representations that those firms, or their current or former attorneys, have undertaken, and more may be in the offing.<sup>5</sup> Those Orders pose a grave threat to our system

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 29(a)(4)(E), *amici* certify that (1) portions of this brief were authored by Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP before its retention as counsel for Susman Godfrey LLP in this case, but otherwise this brief was drafted by counsel for *amici curiae* and not by counsel for any party; (2) no party or counsel for any party contributed money to fund the preparation or submission of this brief; and (3) apart from counsel for *amici curiae*, no other person contributed money to fund the preparation or submission of this brief.

<sup>2</sup> The individual *amici* are described in Appendix A.

<sup>3</sup> See Addressing Risks from Susman Godfrey, The White House (Apr. 9, 2025) (“the Executive Order” or “Susman Godfrey Order”), <https://tinyurl.com/2h4uzvbc>.

<sup>4</sup> See Addressing Risks from Perkins Coie LLP, The White House (Mar. 6, 2025) (“Perkins Coie Order”), <https://tinyurl.com/3jabz9vu>; Addressing Risks from Jenner & Block, The White House (Mar. 25, 2025) (“Jenner Order”), <https://tinyurl.com/u7ts9x49>; Addressing Risks from Paul Weiss, The White House (Mar. 14, 2025) (“Paul Weiss Order”), <https://tinyurl.com/5w4j69fv>; Suspension of Security Clearances and Evaluation of Government Contracts, The White House (Feb. 25, 2025), <https://tinyurl.com/3yxdrmfj>; Addressing Risks from WilmerHale, The White House (Mar. 27, 2025) (“WilmerHale Order”), <https://tinyurl.com/4fhyuar2>.

<sup>5</sup> See Preventing Abuses of the Legal System and the Federal Court, The White House (Mar. 22, 2025), <https://tinyurl.com/b3pcxupp>.

of constitutional governance and to the rule of law itself. The judiciary should act with resolve—now—to ensure that this abuse of executive power ceases. *Cf. United States v. Nixon*, 418 U.S. 683 (1974).

### **ARGUMENT**

1. The Executive Order at issue in this case, and the others like it, take direct aim at several of the Nation’s leading law firms and seek to cow every other firm, large and small, into submission. On the basis of vague and unsubstantiated allegations, the Executive Order subjects an entire firm, as well as its clients and personnel, to draconian punishment—including the revocation of its attorneys’ security clearances, the potential loss of clients that contract with the United States, and denial of access to federal buildings and facilities. Such disabilities would threaten the survival of any law firm.

2. The looming threat posed by the Executive Order at issue in this case and the others like it is not lost on anyone practicing law in this country today: any controversial representation challenging actions of the current administration (or even causes it disfavors) now brings with it the risk of devastating retaliation. Whatever short-term advantage an administration may gain from exercising power in this way, the rule of law cannot long endure in the climate of fear that such actions create. Our adversarial system depends upon zealous advocates litigating each side of a case with equal vigor; that is how impartial judges arrive at just, informed decisions that vindicate the rule of law. *See Legal Services Corp. v. Velazquez*, 531 U.S. 533, 545 (2001) (“An informed, independent judiciary presumes an informed, independent bar.”). In the same vein, it is a deeply held principle of the legal profession that everyone, no matter their actions or beliefs, is entitled to zealous advocacy on their behalf. *See Martinez v. Ryan*, 566 U.S. 1, 12 (2012) (“[T]he right to counsel is the foundation for our adversary system.”). The principle is so deeply ingrained that lawyers—going back to John Adams’ defense of eight British soldiers who perpetrated the

Boston Massacre of 1770—consider it a core part of their professional obligation to take on representation of clients with whom they disagree, even vehemently. Indeed, the “courage” of attorneys who take on unpopular clients has long “made lawyerdom proud.” *Sacher v. United States*, 343 U.S. 1, 4 (1952).

3. The work done by *amici*, and other firms like them, is indispensable to the success of our system. Many advocate for the interests of the Nation’s leading business and financial institutions, which depend on the stability of the rule of law in order to thrive economically. Others advocate for the interests of small businesses, nonprofit organizations, consumers, workers and other individuals, and likewise depend on the impartial administration of justice to advance their clients’ objectives. Individuals at these firms hold a wide range of political, social, and economic views—even with respect to the representations attacked in the executive orders. But despite those differences, *amici* are united in their support for the integrity of the adversarial system and the rule of law.

4. The role of *amici* and firms like them is particularly important when a law firm represents a client challenging the actions of a president or his administration, Republican or Democratic. Checking federal government overreach, whether it be infringements on religious liberty, assaults on the freedom of the press, or burdensome regulation, is a vital part of what *amici* and others like them are called to do. By definition, such litigation brings lawyers into conflict with the policies and objectives of the Executive Branch.

5. Since the Court entered a Temporary Restraining Order in the Perkins Coie case, the Administration has redoubled its threats of retaliation against the legal profession. In that regard, the express targeting of law firms for their undertaking of certain representations is cause for particularly acute concern. The Executive Order against Susman Godfrey at issue in this case, for

example, alleges that the firm “spearheads efforts to . . . degrade the quality of American elections,” Susman Godfrey Order, § 1, a clear reference to the firm’s representations related to the litigation over the results of the November 2020 election, *see* Decl. of Kalpana Srinivasan in Supp. of Mot. for TRO ¶¶ 35–38, ECF No. 10-14. For our system of justice to operate, members of the bar must be free to advocate zealously for all their clients, large and small, rich and poor, without fear of retribution. They must be free, in the words of Chief Justice Marshall, to defend “the right of every individual to claim the protection of the laws.” *Marbury v. Madison*, 5 U.S. 137, 163 (1803). Without such zealous advocacy, there is no prospect of equal justice under law.

6. History offers indelible reminders of the perils associated with governmental intrusion into the autonomy of the legal system and with political retribution aimed at lawyers thought to stand in the way of a regime’s political objectives. In too many countries and instances to name, regimes have disbarred, prosecuted, and jailed lawyers who dared to represent opposition figures or challenge government actions, with predictable results for the rule of law and the integrity of the legal profession.

7. Fortunately, such abuses have been rare in our country’s history. Over the past two decades alone, elite law firms have represented clients seeking to invalidate major presidential initiatives, from the Military Commissions Act of 2006<sup>6</sup> to the Affordable Care Act<sup>7</sup> and the Dodd-Frank Act.<sup>8</sup> Until now, it would have been inconceivable that a law firm would risk punitive retribution from the federal government for undertaking representations of this kind. And when state or local governments have attempted to wield the threat of official retribution to deter entities

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<sup>6</sup> *Boumediene v. Bush*, 553 U.S. 723 (2008).

<sup>7</sup> *NFIB v. Sebelius*, 567 U.S. 519 (2012).

<sup>8</sup> *Seila Law LLC v. Consumer Fin. Prot. Bureau*, 591 U.S. 197 (2020); *Consumer Fin. Prot. Bureau v. Cmty. Fin. Services Ass’n of Am., Ltd.*, 601 U.S. 416 (2024).

from advocating for what they believe, the Supreme Court has condemned such actions in clear and decisive terms. *E.g.*, *Nat'l Rifle Ass'n of Am. v. Vullo*, 602 U.S. 175, 189 (2024) (“[T]he First Amendment prohibits government officials from relying on the threat of invoking legal sanctions and other means of coercion ... to achieve the suppression of disfavored speech.” (citation omitted)). But that proud tradition is in jeopardy. Unless the judiciary acts decisively now, what was once beyond the pale will, in short order, become a stark reality. Corporations and individuals alike will risk losing their right to be represented by the law firms of their choice, and a profound chill will be cast over the First Amendment right to petition the courts for redress.

8. Like every lawyer, the members of the *amicus* law firms have sworn an oath to uphold the Constitution and to discharge the obligations of the profession to the best of our ability. That oath obligates all of us, no matter our political views, to be faithful custodians of our Nation’s commitment to the rule of law—a commitment that has made it possible for this Nation’s corporations to lead the world in innovation and productivity; for our scientists, scholars and creative artists to contribute so much to human progress; and for all of us to know that we can turn to the courts to vindicate our fundamental civil rights. We, therefore, feel a special responsibility to stand up now to the unprecedented threat posed by the Executive Order at issue in this case and the others like it.

### **CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, this Court should grant Plaintiff’s motion for summary judgment.

Dated: April 25, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Nathan P. Eimer

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**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**

I hereby certify that the foregoing complies with Local Civil Rule 7(o)(4) and does not exceed 25 pages. I further certify that the attached *amicus* brief complies with the typeface and type style requirements of Local Rule 5.1(d) because it has been prepared in a proportionally spaced typeface using Microsoft Word and 12-point Times New Roman font.

Dated: April 25, 2025

*/s/ Nathan P. Eimer*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nathan P. Eimer

# **Appendix A**

**List of Amici Curiae**

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Aldous Law  
Ali & Lockwood LLP  
ALR Civil Rights LLC  
Altair Law LLP  
Alto Litigation PC  
Altshuler Berzon, LLP  
Amis, Patel and Brewer, LLP  
Anapol Weiss  
Anderson & Kreiger LLP  
Andrues/Podberesky  
Andrus Anderson LLP  
Andrus Wagstaff, PC  
Arete Law Group PLLC  
Arguedas, Cassman, Headley & Goldman LLP  
Arias Sanguinetti Wang & Team, LLP  
Armond Wilson LLP  
Arnold & Porter  
Arrowood LLP  
Arshack, Hajek & Lehrman, PLLC  
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Ascheman Law  
ASNER LLC  
Atheria Law PC  
Auto Fraud Legal Center LLP  
AVA Law Group  
Avera & Smith, LLP  
Aviso Legal Group LLP  
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Aylstock, Witkin, Kreis and Overholtz, PLLC  
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Banashek Irving & McNutt, LLP  
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Bassford Remele  
Baughman Kroup Bosse PLLC

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Bedell, Dittmar, DeVault, Pillans & Coxe, P.A.  
Beeman & Muchmore, LLP  
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Bennett & Samios LLP  
Berger Montague PC  
Berman Tabacco  
Berner Chawla, PLLC  
Bernstein & Gordon LLP  
Beveridge & Diamond, P.C.  
Bharti Law Group, PLLC  
Bienvenu Law Office  
Binder & Schwartz LLP  
Bird, Marella, Rhow, Lincenberg, Drooks & Nessim, LLP  
Birnbaum & Godkin, LLP  
Birrell Law Firm, PLLC  
BLL LLP  
Block & Leviton LLP  
Blood Hurst & O'Reardon, LLP  
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Cannon & Dunphy  
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Fisher Taubenfeld LLP  
Fishman Haygood LLP  
Foley & Mansfield, PLLP  
Foley Hoag LLP  
Folger Levin LLP  
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Frankel PLLC  
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