



Politics

Justice Department moves to drop defense of Trump's executive orders targeting law firms

By [Jacob Rosen](#), [Melissa Quinn](#)

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Update: The Justice Department has moved to drop its defense of the executive orders targeting law firms.

Washington Post reports that the Justice Department is dropping its defense of the executive orders targeting law firms, according to sources familiar with the matter.

In papers filed with the court, the Justice Department's administrative decisions are unconstitutional, according to a lawsuit filed by the law firm LLP; Susan

While the Justice Department has argued that the four federal agencies are not providing services for the public, the Justice Department's directives are unconstitutional.

"The government is not providing services for the public, and our

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challenge to the unlawful Executive Order was about defending our clients' constitutional right to retain the counsel of their choosing and defending the rule of law. We are pleased these foundational principles were vindicated."

Susman Godfrey said the Trump administration "capitulated," bringing to an end what it said was an attack not only on the firm, but also the rule of law.

"We fought for ourselves, but we fought for bigger things, too: for a Constitution that protects our freedoms; for a legal profession that depends on equal justice under the law; and for the people across this country who refuse to back down in the face of an Administration that seeks to silence and intimidate them – lawyers and non-lawyers alike," the firm said. "We did not seek this fight, but neither did we run from it. And we won."

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House initiatives. Mr. Trump's directive had singled out the work of Mark Pomerantz, who previously worked at the firm and who oversaw an investigation by the Manhattan District Attorney's Office into Mr. Trump's finances before he became president.

Each of the orders targeted the law firms' clients, access to federal buildings and officials, and security clearances held by their employees.

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medical institutions that provide medical treatments to young people experiencing gender dysphoria and his firings of inspector generals across the federal government.

The four firms each sued the Trump administration, and four different federal judges ruled overwhelmingly in their favor, finding the measures violated the First, Fifth and Sixth Amendments. None of the executive orders took effect as a result of the litigation.

In a decision siding with Perkins Coie, a federal judge found that the executive order targeting the firm sent the message that "lawyers must stick to the party line, or else." In ruling for Susman Godfrey, another judge found that the government "sought to use its immense power to dictate the positions that law firms may or may not take," which threatened the foundation of legal representation in the U.S.

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president has also revoked security clearances and protective details for officials who have criticized him, and the Justice Department obtained federal indictments against former FBI Director James Comey and New York Attorney General Letitia James.

Those criminal cases, however, were dropped after a federal judge found the prosecutor who secured the indictments was improperly appointed.

The Justice Department's decision to end its appeals in the cases involving the law firms also comes as it responds to more than 600 lawsuits that challenge many aspects of Mr. Trump's agenda. Government lawyers have walked away from several of the cases, including one brought by the American Bar Association after the Justice Department cut off grants for training and support programs that aim to help domestic violence and sexual assault survivors.

A federal judge ruled in favor of the organization, and the Trump administration declined to appeal.

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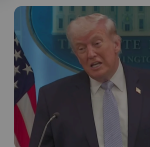
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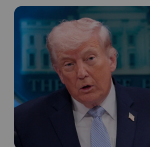
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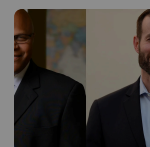
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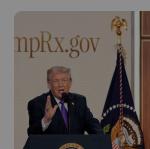
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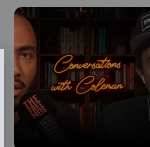
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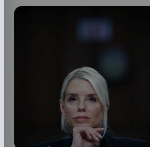
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