



CITIZENS FOR  
RESPONSIBILITY &  
ETHICS IN WASHINGTON

November 18, 2025

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**Re: Freedom of Information Act Request**

Dear FOIA Officer:

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (“CREW”) submits this request for records pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552, and Department of Justice (“DOJ”) regulations.

Specifically, CREW requests:

1. From January 20, 2021 to the date this request is processed, any Standard Form 95 or other document asserting an administrative claim for relief under the Federal Tort Claims Act (“FTCA”), 28 U.S.C. §§ 2671-2680, submitted by or on behalf of President Donald Trump pursuant to 28 C.F.R. § 14.2, including all documentation, exhibits, affidavits, and evidence submitted with such claims.
2. From January 20, 2021 to the date this request is processed, any final denial, issued pursuant to 28 C.F.R. § 14.9(a), of an administrative claim for relief under the FTCA submitted by or on behalf of President Trump, including the statement of reasons for the denial and any other accompanying documentation.
3. From January 20, 2021 to the date this request is processed, any request for reconsideration of a final denial of any FTCA claim filed by or on behalf of President Trump pursuant to 28 C.F.R. § 14.9(b).

4. From January 20, 2021 to the date this request is processed, any document memorializing an award, compromise, or settlement, made pursuant to 28 C.F.R. § 14.10, on any FTCA claim submitted by or on behalf of President Trump, including records sufficient to identify the amount of any payment, any copy of Standard Form 1145 sent to the General Accounting Office, any evidence of approval of a payment by the Attorney General or his or her designee, and any other accompanying documentation.
5. From January 20, 2021, to the date this request is processed, all communications related to the processing, initial consideration, denial, approval, or appeal for reconsideration of any FTCA claim filed by or on behalf of President Trump pursuant to 28 C.F.R. § 14.2.

Please search for responsive records regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics. We seek records of any kind, including paper records, electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, photographs, data, and graphical material. Our request includes without limitation all correspondence, letters, emails, text messages, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages, and transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations, or discussions. Our request also includes any attachments to emails and other records, and anyone who was cc'ed or bcc'ed on any emails.

If it is your position any portion of the requested records is exempt from disclosure, CREW requests that you provide it with an index of those documents as required under *Vaughn v. Rosen*, 484 F.2d 820 (D.C. Cir. 1973). If some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, please disclose any reasonably segregable non-exempt portions of the requested records. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(b). If it is your position that a document contains non-exempt segments, but that those non-exempt segments are so dispersed throughout the document as to make segregation impossible, please state what portion of the document is non-exempt, and how the material is dispersed throughout the document. See *Mead Data Central v. U.S. Dep't of the Air Force*, 566 F.2d 242, 261 (D.C. Cir. 1977).

Please be advised that CREW intends to pursue all legal remedies to enforce its rights under FOIA. Accordingly, because litigation is reasonably foreseeable, the agency should institute an agencywide preservation hold on all documents potentially responsive to this request.

### **Fee Waiver Request**

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A) and agency regulations, CREW requests a waiver of fees associated with processing this request for records. The subject of this request concerns the operations of the federal government, and the disclosures likely will contribute to a better understanding of relevant government procedures and practices by CREW and the general public in a significant way. See *id.* § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii). Moreover, the request primarily and fundamentally is for non-commercial purposes. See, e.g., *McClellan Ecological v. Carlucci*, 835 F.2d 1282, 1285 (9th Cir. 1987).

The FTCA permits certain claims against the United States and its executive agencies for damages caused by federal employee conduct within the scope of that employee's federal employment.<sup>1</sup> Standard Form 95 may be used, but is not required, to present an FTCA claim, and is a convenient method to convey the information necessary to support the claim.<sup>2</sup> Records responsive to CREW's request, including documentation of President Trump's administrative claims for relief, as well as copies of any final approval, denial, or request for reconsideration of any claim filed by or on behalf of the president, will significantly contribute to the public's understanding of the legitimacy of President Trump's administrative claims and the integrity of the DOJ. *See* 28 U.S.C. §§ 2671-2680; 28 C.F.R. § 14.9-14.10.

Recent reporting indicates that in 2023 and 2024, as a private citizen, President Trump reportedly filed at least two administrative claims seeking damages for purported violations of his rights in the course of investigating his potentially criminal conduct.<sup>3</sup> But President Trump, in his role as chief executive of the United States, now oversees the DOJ and has appointed its senior leadership, including the individuals charged with reviewing and potentially approving the president's administrative claims.<sup>4</sup> President Trump stated that the decision whether the federal government should pay him damages for past investigations "would have to go across [his] desk" and observed that "it's awfully strange to make a decision where [he's] paying [himself]."<sup>5</sup> The validity and legitimacy of the review process for President Trump's administrative claims is an especially weighty interest for the American public, given that taxpayer funds managed in the Treasury Department's Judgment Fund are often used to pay FTCA settlements.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Justice Civil Division, *Documents and Forms* (Last Rev. Sept. 30, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/civil/documents-and-forms-0>.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> Devlin Barrett & Tyler Pager, *Trump Said to Demand Justice Dept. Pay Him \$230 Million for Past Cases*, N.Y. Times (Oct. 21, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/21/us/politics/trump-justice-department-compensation.html>.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*; *see* Alanna Durkin Richer and the Associated Press, *Senate Confirms Former Trump Defense Attorney Todd Blanche as Deputy Attorney General*, KGNS News (Mar. 5, 2025), <https://www.kgns.tv/2025/03/05/senate-confirms-former-trump-defense-attorney-todd-blanche-deputy-attorney-general/>; Kyle Cheney, *Trump Taps Go-To Lawyer for his MAGA Allies to Fill Out Justice Department's Upper Ranks*, Politico (Apr. 4, 2025), <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/04/02/trump-stanley-woodward-associate-attorney-general-00267224>; Ben Penn, *Senate Approves Justice Department No. 3, Backlog of Nominees*, Bloomberg Law (Oct. 8, 2025), <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/us-law-week/senate-approves-justice-department-no-3-backlog-of-nominees>; U.S. const. art. II § 1.

<sup>5</sup> *See* Joseph Gedeon, *Trump Says he has Final Say on Paying Himself \$230 Million for Past Investigations*, The Guardian (Oct. 22, 2025), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/oct/22/donald-trump-damages-federal-investigations>.

<sup>6</sup> DOJ Justice Manual § 4-5.40 (the Treasury Department's "Judgment Fund pays most FTCA settlements and judgements").

CREW is a non-profit corporation, organized under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. CREW is committed to protecting the public's right to be aware of the activities of government officials, to ensuring the integrity of those officials, and to highlighting and working to reduce the influence of money on politics. CREW uses a combination of research, litigation, and advocacy to advance its mission. CREW intends to analyze the information responsive to this request and to share its analysis with the public through reports, press releases, or other means. In addition, CREW will disseminate any documents it acquires from this request to the public through its website, [www.citizensforethics.org](http://www.citizensforethics.org). The release of information obtained through this request is not in CREW's financial interest.

CREW further requests that it not be charged search or review fees for this request pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(ii)(II) because CREW qualifies as a member of the news media. See *Nat'l Sec. Archive v. U.S. Dep't of Defense*, 880 F.2d 1381, 1386 (D.C. Cir. 1989) (holding non-profit a "representative of the news media" and broadly interpreting the term to include "any person or organization which regularly publishes or disseminates information to the public").

CREW routinely disseminates information obtained through FOIA to the public in several ways. For example, CREW's website receives over 150,000 page views every month. The website includes blogposts that report on and analyze newsworthy developments regarding government ethics, corruption, and money in politics, as well as numerous reports CREW has published to educate the public about these issues. These reports frequently rely on government records obtained through FOIA. CREW also posts the documents it obtains through FOIA on its website.

Under these circumstances, CREW satisfies fully the criteria for a fee waiver.

### **Expedition Request**

CREW requests expedited processing of this FOIA request pursuant to FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552 and 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(e). CREW is entitled to expedited processing because there is an "urgency to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal Government Activity," and CREW "is primarily engaged in disseminating information," 5 U.S.C. § 552(6)(E)(v)(II). In addition, the DOJ should grant expedited processing because this request presents a "matter of widespread and exceptional media interest in which there exist possible questions about the government's integrity that affect public confidence." 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(e)(1)(iv).

CREW is "primarily engaged in disseminating information" to the public. This "standard 'requires that information dissemination be the main [and not merely an incidental] activity of the requestor,'" but "publishing information 'need not be [the organization's] sole occupation.'" *Protect Democracy Project, Inc. v. U.S. Dep't of Def.*, 293, 298

(D.D.C. 2017). CREW routinely disseminates information obtained through FOIA to the public in several ways. For example, CREW's website receives over 150,000 page views every month. The website includes blogposts that report on and analyze newsworthy developments regarding government ethics, corruption, and money in politics, as well as numerous reports CREW has published to educate the public about these issues. These reports frequently rely on government records obtained through FOIA. CREW also posts the documents it obtains through FOIA on its website. CREW is a credible requestor and disseminator of information often relied on by major media outlets.

Further, the facts demonstrate that (1) the request concerns a matter of current exigency to the American public; (2) the consequences of delaying a response would compromise a significant recognized interest; and (3) the request concerns federal government activity. *See Al-Fayed v. C.I.A.*, 254 F.3d 300, 310 (D.C. Cir. 2001).

First, the requested records concern a matter of current exigency to the American public. President Trump's administrative claims are "the subject of a currently unfolding story."<sup>7</sup> *See Al-Fayed*, 254 F.3d at 310. In addition to the lack of transparency with any settlement, reporters have identified potential conflicts of interest if the President's administrative claims are reviewed and potentially approved by two of his former personal lawyers, Todd Blanche and Stanley Woodward, who represented him at the same time that the investigations for which President Trump seeks compensation were underway.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Barrett & Pager *supra* n. 3; see Rachel Wolf, *Trump Suggests DOJ Owes Him Money for Past Cases*, Fox News (Oct. 22, 2025), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-suggests-doj-owes-him-money-past-cases>; Cristina Laila, *Breaking: President Trump Demands \$230 Million from DOJ for Russia Witch Hunt, Mar-a-Lago Raid*, Gateway Pundit (Oct. 21, 2025), <https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2025/10/breaking-president-trump-demands-230-million-doj-mueller/>; Tim Pearce, *Trump Confirms He's Seeking Damages Against DOJ, Says 'Any Money' Will Go to Charity*, Daily Wire (Oct. 21, 2025), <https://www.dailywire.com/news/trump-confirms-hes-seeking-damages-against-doj-says-any-money-will-go-to-charity>; Steven Nelson, *Trump seeks up to \$230M from DOJ over alleged targeting – may spend on WH ballroom*, New York Post (Oct. 21, 2025), <https://nypost.com/2025/10/21/us-news/trump-seeks-millions-from-justice-department-over-russia-investigation-mar-a-lago-raid/>; NewsMax Wires, *Trump Seeks \$230 Million From DOJ Over 'Politically Driven' Probes: Report*, Newsmax (Oct. 21, 2025), <https://www.newsmax.com/us/trump/2025/10/21/id/1231281/>; Jasmyn Jordan, *Trump Legal Team Files \$230 Million Claims Against Justice Department Over Past Federal Investigations*, Breitbart (Oct. 22, 2025), <https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2025/10/22/trump-legal-team-files-230-million-claims-justice-department-federal-investigations/>; Media Matters Staff, *Ben Shapiro says there are "an enormous number of serious conflicts" with Trump demanding the Department of Justice pay him \$230 million*, Media Matters for America (Oct. 22, 2025), <https://www.mediamatters.org/ben-shapiro/ben-shapiro-says-there-are-enormous-number-serious-conflicts-trump-demanding-department>; Ella Lee, *Trump's \$230M DOJ settlement bid likely has few legal backstops*, The Hill (Oct. 25, 2025), <https://thehill.com/homenews/5572539-legal-experts-question-trump-settlement/>.

<sup>8</sup> *See generally supra* n.6 (citing media coverage of President Trump's claims).

Second, a delay in processing this request would “compromise a significant recognized interest.” *Al-Fayed*, 254 F.3d at 310. Specifically, CREW and the public would be “precluded . . . from obtaining in a timely fashion information vital to the current and ongoing debate” on the substance of the president’s requests and the myriad potential DOJ conflicts of interest in reviewing the president’s requests. *Protect Democracy Project, Inc. v. U.S. Dep’t of Def.*, 263 F. Supp. 3d 293, 299 (D.D.C. 2017) (citation omitted). “Being closed off from such a debate is itself a harm in an open democracy.” *Id.* This request must be processed urgently so that the American public can review the requested information before any potential settlement money is paid out using taxpayer dollars.

Regarding the substance of the President’s reported claims, one complaint reportedly seeks damages based on the FBI and special counsel investigation into possible Russian interference and coordination with the Trump campaign during the 2016 election.<sup>9</sup> The other reported complaint alleges that the FBI violated the former president’s privacy through a search for classified documents in President Trump’s Florida club and residence, Mar-a-Lago, and asserts that the DOJ engaged in malicious prosecution against the president over his handling of those documents.<sup>10</sup> Related to this latter claim, President Trump was charged with several federal crimes which were never adjudicated on the merits.<sup>11</sup> The fact that his conduct was serious enough to constitute probable cause that a crime was committed raises questions about the veracity of President Trump’s claims to the DOJ. And the fact that they pertain to potentially criminal conduct in the course of seeking public office and retaining classified and extremely sensitive documents containing state secrets, both of which implicate the rights of the American public, only heighten the public’s interest in immediate transparency regarding his claims and how the DOJ is handling them.

The complaints that give rise to this request further raise questions about potential conflicts of interest and DOJ’s ability to impartially adjudicate President Trump’s claims. Although President Trump reportedly filed at least two administrative claims while he was not in office, President Trump currently appoints and oversees the DOJ officials in charge of approving these claims.<sup>12</sup> The Justice Manual states that, generally, an Assistant Attorney General can “compromise (or settle administratively) a defense claim when the principal amount of the proposed settlement does not exceed \$4 million,” and that “the Deputy Attorney General or Associate Attorney General, as appropriate, is further specifically authorized to exercise the settlement authority of the Attorney General as to all affirmative and defensive civil claims.”<sup>13</sup> Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche and Associate Attorney

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<sup>9</sup> See Barrett and Pager *supra* n.3.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> See Melissa Quinn and Graham Kates, *Trump’s 4 indictments in detail: A quick-look guide to charges, trial dates and key players for each case*, CBS News (Sept. 13, 2024), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-indictments-details-guide-charges-trial-dates-people-case/>.

<sup>12</sup> See *supra* n. 1; U.S. Const. Art. II § 1.

<sup>13</sup> DOJ Justice Manual §4-3.110.

General Stanley Woodward each previously served as criminal defense counsel in cases involving President Trump, with Associate Attorney General Woodward representing President Trump's personal aide Walt Nauta in the classified documents prosecution that serves as the basis for at least one of the President's administrative claims.<sup>14</sup> That these officials may have the responsibility to review and potentially approve President Trump's claims naturally raises questions about whether "the[ir] decisions and actions" will be "made in the best interests of the American people."<sup>15</sup>

Executive branch regulations provide that when an employee "determines" that "circumstances would cause a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts to question their impartiality" in a matter involving a "person with whom the employee has a covered relationship," the employee "should not participate in the matter unless the employee" has been cleared to do so by the appropriate agency designee.<sup>16</sup> An employee has a "covered relationship" with anyone "for whom the employee served as an attorney within the last year."<sup>17</sup> Blanche stated at his Senate confirmation hearing in February 2025 that his "attorney-client relationship with" President Trump "remains."<sup>18</sup> President Trump is a party to the administrative claims at issue. A reasonable observer with knowledge of the relevant facts would question Blanche's impartiality in this matter. Under this regulation, Blanche should therefore be required to recuse unless he receives clearance from the appropriate agency designee to participate in the matter. For Blanche to participate, DOJ regulations require the head of the employee's component, with the concurrence of an ethics official, to make a written determination that the interest of the government in the employee's participation outweighs the concern that a reasonable person may question the integrity of the Department's programs and operations. *See* 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502.<sup>19</sup>

The significance of these questions to the American public is heightened by the fact that any potential monetary payment provided to President Trump to resolve the administrative claims would most likely be paid using taxpayer funds.<sup>20</sup>

In addition, since retaking office, President Trump has politicized the leadership of the DOJ. This includes President Trump's appointment of individuals who have served his personal and political interests and who, as political appointees at the Department, have taken actions to further the president's personal agenda:

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<sup>14</sup> *See* articles summarizing Trump's DOJ appointees *supra* n. 3.

<sup>15</sup> DOJ Justice Manual § 1-4.010.

<sup>16</sup> 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(a)(2).

<sup>17</sup> *Id.* § 502(b)(1)(iv).

<sup>18</sup> Devlin Bartlett, *Nominee for No. 2 Official at Justice Dept., Todd Blanche, Denounces Treatment of Trump*, *New York Times* (Feb. 12, 2025),

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/12/us/politics/trump-deputy-attorney-general-hearing.html>.

<sup>19</sup> *See* Department of Justice, *Financial Conflicts*, <https://www.justice.gov/jmd/conflicts>.

<sup>20</sup> *See supra* n. 5.

- Dozens of DOJ prosecutors have been fired, including career attorneys who worked on President Trump's prosecutions and those of January 6th rioters.<sup>21</sup>
- In February 2025, Trump appointees ordered officials in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York to drop corruption charges against New York City Mayor Eric Adams, prompting the resignation of several career prosecutors who refused to comply.<sup>22</sup>
- Amid fervent public speculation about President Trump's possible relationship with convicted child sex abuser Jeffrey Epstein, Trump appointee Deputy Attorney General Blanche took the unusual step of meeting with Epstein associate Ghislaine Maxwell, raising questions given Blanche's past employment as Trump's personal attorney.<sup>23</sup>
- Weeks prior to Blanche's meeting with Maxwell, the DOJ fired Maurene Comey, a longtime assistant U.S. attorney who helped lead the Maxwell prosecution and who is the daughter of former Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") Director James Comey.<sup>24</sup>
- The president publicly urged Attorney General Pam Bondi to prosecute former FBI Director Comey and several other of Trump's stated political adversaries, including New York Attorney General Letitia James.<sup>25</sup>
- After a career prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia resigned after refusing to bring charges against Comey and James, President Trump installed another of his former personal lawyers, Lindsey Halligan, to lead the office, despite Halligan's lack of criminal prosecution experience.<sup>26</sup>
- Days after Halligan took over the office, the DOJ charged former FBI Director Comey with making a false statement and obstruction in relation to the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election, an investigation

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<sup>21</sup> Patrick Marley, Jeremy Roebuck, and Yvonne Wingett Sanchez, *Trump's DOJ has fired dozens of prosecutors, upending decades-old norm*, Washington Post (July 19, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/07/19/justice-career-prosecutors-staff-firings-trump/>.

<sup>22</sup> Madeline Halpert and Mike Wendling, *Flurry of resignations after DOJ tells prosecutors to drop Eric Adams case*, BBC (Feb. 14, 2025), <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cm274m25e4ro>.

<sup>23</sup> Ryan Lucas, *Todd Blanche's past hangs over him as top DOJ official on Epstein case*, NPR (July 29, 2025), <https://www.npr.org/2025/07/29/nx-s1-5484129/todd-blanche-epstein-ghislaine-maxwell-trump>.

<sup>24</sup> Katherine Faulders, Mike Levine, and Aaron Katersky, *Maurene Comey, federal prosecutor in Sean 'Diddy' Combs and Ghislaine Maxwell cases, fired; Sources*, ABC News (July 16, 2025), <https://abcnews.go.com/US/maurene-comey-fired-doj-southern-district-new-york/story?id=123817739>.

<sup>25</sup> Josh Dawsey, Sadie Gurman, and Aruna Viswanatha, *Inside the Justice Department Where the President Calls the Shots*, Wall Street Journal (Oct. 8, 2025), [https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-doj-inside-political-enemies-17f13f72?gaa\\_at=eafs&gaa\\_n=ASWzDAhImKKSgBJy6lOEFox5a9UfKXvPrITVFnMemSXCsbZTohS8hNvKIzZH&gaa\\_ts=68e8795f&gaa\\_sig=llCk13Res-ncyopwmjeUWKTPPV1o-qkEGdeUnU4r6RjNTIt3KvwWibiK3FU4SvjJai0NiBMRWovwSk\\_XdCKkVA%3D%3D](https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-doj-inside-political-enemies-17f13f72?gaa_at=eafs&gaa_n=ASWzDAhImKKSgBJy6lOEFox5a9UfKXvPrITVFnMemSXCsbZTohS8hNvKIzZH&gaa_ts=68e8795f&gaa_sig=llCk13Res-ncyopwmjeUWKTPPV1o-qkEGdeUnU4r6RjNTIt3KvwWibiK3FU4SvjJai0NiBMRWovwSk_XdCKkVA%3D%3D).

<sup>26</sup> *Id.*

which also serves as the basis for one of President Trump's administrative claims against the Department.<sup>27</sup> Weeks later, Attorney General James, who led a civil fraud investigation into President Trump in 2023, was criminally indicted on charges of bank fraud.<sup>28</sup>

Finally, the decision of the DOJ whether to settle President Trump's administrative claims is a federal government activity. Expedited processing will allow the American people and policy makers to assess the merits of the president's claims, evaluate the integrity of public officials sworn to serve the public interest, and make public the DOJ's position on the president's administrative claims.

Given this web of conflicts of interest, including President Trump's appointment of his former personal attorneys, including Attorney General Pam Bondi, to DOJ leadership, and President Trump's attempts to improperly influence the Department of Justice, the integrity of the justice system alone presents a matter of exigent concern for the American people.<sup>29</sup> The dire consequences are only amplified by the possible payment of hundreds of millions of dollars in taxpayer funds to the president.

Separately, President Trump's administrative claims and the possibility of his receiving \$230 million in taxpayer funds to settle the claims has generated "widespread and exceptional media interest in which there exist possible questions about the government's integrity that affect public confidence." 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(e)(1)(iv). The DOJ's potential settlement with the president has already drawn national attention, underscoring public concern about corruption within the executive branch and the erosion of DOJ independence.<sup>30</sup> The president seeking to recover a monetary settlement from an executive branch agency run by political appointees he himself selected, and whom he retains the power to remove, presents myriad conflicts of interest, only exacerbated by the fact that the officials who will review and potentially approve the settlement were formerly the president's and his associate's personal attorneys. As one ethics professor commented, "[t]he ethical conflict is just so basic and fundamental, you don't need a law professor to explain it."<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> Eric Tucker and the Associated Press, *Ex-FBI Director Comey charged with making false statement and obstruction, AP source says*, PBS Newshour (Sept. 25, 2025), <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/ex-fbi-director-comey-charged-with-making-false-statement-and-obstruction-ap-source-says>.

<sup>28</sup> Madeline Halpert, *New York Attorney General Letitia James criminally indicted*, BBC (Oct. 9, 2025), <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c4g9n4xj904o>.

<sup>29</sup> Michael C. Bender, *White House Expected to Bolster Impeachment Strategy with Two New Hires*, the Wall Street Journal (Nov. 6, 2019), <https://www.wsj.com/articles/white-house-expected-to-bolster-impeachment-strategy-with-two-new-hires-11573068363>.

<sup>30</sup> See *supra* n. 6 (national media coverage of settlement discussions).

<sup>31</sup> See Barrett and Pager *supra* n. 3.

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The American people have an interest in understanding President Trump's claims and the process through which they will be reviewed so that they can evaluate how effectively the DOJ is adhering to its commitment to "following the facts and the law wherever they may lead, without prejudice or improper influence."<sup>32</sup>

The undersigned certifies that the representations in this expedited processing request are true and correct to the best of his/her knowledge and belief.

### **Conclusion**

If you have any questions about this request or foresee any problems in fully releasing the requested records, please email me at [REDACTED]. Also, if CREW's request for a fee waiver is denied, please contact our office immediately upon making such a determination.

Where possible, please produce records in electronic format. Please send the requested records to [REDACTED] or by mail to Christie Wentworth, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, P.O. Box 14596, Washington, D.C. 20044.

Sincerely,



Christie Wentworth  
Senior Policy Counsel

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<sup>32</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, *About DOJ*, <https://www.justice.gov/about#:~:text=Our%20Values,fairness%2C%20dignity%2C%20and%20compassion>.