

March 24, 2025 (updated on April 4, 2025 with additional signatures)

Chairman Brad Karp
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP
1285 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10019

Dear Mr. Karp,

The undersigned, alumni of Paul, Weiss, write to protest the firm's recent decision to surrender to the Trump administration in the face of threats to its operations.

Paul, Weiss has long been a stalwart of professionalism and integrity, and a source of pride for its attorneys and alumni. Many of its prominent partners, including Simon Rifkind, Lloyd Garrison, Arthur Liman, and Jay Topkis, have been active in good government and the causes of democracy and civil and human rights. During the first Trump administration, Paul, Weiss lawyers, including many of us, fought to protect civil and human rights with the firm's support. That is why it came as a shock to find the firm at the very forefront of capitulation to the Trump administration's bullying tactics. We expected the firm to be a leader in standing up for the legal profession, the adversary system, and the right to counsel. Instead of a ringing defense of the values of democracy, we witnessed a craven surrender to, and thus complicity in, what is perhaps the gravest threat to the independence of the legal profession since at least the days of Senator Joseph McCarthy. Lloyd Garrison represented J. Robert Oppenheimer at his security hearings during the McCarthy era; Arthur Liman was Chief Counsel to the Senate Select Committee on Iran/Contra during the Reagan administration; Jay Topkis stood up to state and local governments attempting to impose the death penalty. These former partners, along with many others, are surely turning over in their graves.

This is not a matter of partisan politics. At a time when judges are threatened with violence and impeachment for applying the rule of law, the very independence of lawyers and the legal profession is at stake. We are therefore profoundly saddened, and deeply outraged, that the firm in which we heretofore took pride has cowardly allowed itself to become instead a poster child for the administration's efforts to silence dissent and impose a loyalty test on attorneys.

In your post-surrender message to the firm, you expressed the view that the firm could now "put the matter behind us." That statement is not just bad lawyering compounding bad negotiating, it is false. It is already clear that the President is claiming that the firm gave away more than it admits. Even worse, from the standpoint of posterity, it is a permanent stain on the face of a great firm that sought to gain a profit by forfeiting its soul.

We accordingly ask the firm to issue an unambiguous statement that it adheres to the principles it has long regarded as essential to its mission, and strongly rejects the administration's attacks on the courts and the rule of law.

Signed,

Allan R. Abravanel, Associate, 1971-1972, 1974-1976

Nora Ahmed, Associate, 2012-2014, 2015-2020

Judith Albert, Associate, 1979-1985

Ethel Amponsah, Associate, 2016-2021; Summer Associate, 2013-2016

Danielle Ash, Associate, 2013-2015

Alexander Franklin Atkins, Associate, 2017-2022

Marion Bachrach, Associate, 1978-1980

Lilian Balasanian, Associate, 2012-2014

C. Jordan Ball III, Summer Associate, 1991

Peter L. Baltera, Associate, 2017-2022

Celia Goldwag Barenholtz, Associate, 1980-1983

Tracy Baron, Associate, 1995-2004

Elana Beale, Associate, 2013-2016, 2018-2021

Amy Beaux, Associate, 2012-2018

Marshall Beil, Associate, 1973-1975

Ben Bergmann, Associate, 2016-2021

Jerome Blake, Associate, 1994-1999

Hannah Blonshteyn, Associate, 2016-2020

Laura Bower Braunsberg, Associate, 2011-2015

Richard Briffault, Associate, 1978-1980

Elliot H. Brown, Associate, 1975-1979

Julian Burns King, Associate, 2011, 2012-2013

Nicholas Butto, Associate, 2018-2022

Jennifer Ching, Associate, 2004-2008

Melissa Chua, Associate, 2005-2008

Mark Ciani, Associate, 2006-2012

Ilyssa Coghlan, Associate, 2014-2018

James Coppinger, Staff Attorney, 2013-2018

James D. Crutchfield, Staff Attorney, 2011-2020

John M. Delehanty, Associate, 1970-1977; Summer Associate, 1968, 1969

Dexin Deng, Associate, 2016-2019

Meghan M. Dougherty, Associate, 2011-2020

Sarah Earnest, Paralegal and Recruiter, 2009-2013

Erin E. Elmouji, Associate, 2012-2018

Eric Felleman, Associate, 2014-2021

Matthew Fishbein, Associate, 1980-1985

Elizabeth Gary, Associate, 2013-2016

Nikki Gershbain, Summer Associate, 1999

Brad Greenburg, Associate, 2017-2020

Elizabeth J. Grossman, Associate, 2016-2019

Angelo Guisado, Associate, 2014-2017

Ashley Hall, Associate, 2019-2022

Erin Beth Harrist, Associate, 2007-2010

Dina Hellerstein, Associate, 1989-1992, 1993-1998

Helen Hershkoff, Associate, 1978-1983; Summer Associate, 1977

David Hollander, Associate, 1974-1975; 1978-1983

Ilene Jaroslaw, Associate, 1988-1991

David Jaroslaw, Associate, 1988-1993

BJ Jensen, Pro Bono Attorney, 2013-2020

Wayne S. Kabak, Associate, 1977-1980

Nicolas Kabat, Associate, 2018-2022

Rebecca Kimmel, Associate, 2018-2020

Robert King, Associate, 2011, 2012-2013

Jan Kleeman, Associate, 1987-1994

Joshua Knapp, Senior Manager, Business Development, 2013-2019

Golda Lai, Associate, 2016-2021

Adrienne Y. Lee, Associate, 2018-2020

Marisa (Harris) Lenok, Associate, 2011-2013

Eunice Leong, Associate, 2016-2018

Pascale Lesperance, Associate, 2013-2020

Jill Levi, Associate, 1982-1986

William A. Levine, Associate, 1968-1971, 1972-1978

Karen Levinson, Associate, 1983-1990

Kevin Lichtenberg, Paralegal, 2005-2007

Arielle Linsey, Associate, 2014-2019

Virginia Mann, Associate, 2012-2018

Rebecca Matte, Associate, 2014-2017

Kathleen McAteer, Paralegal, 2004-2007

Patrick McCusker, Associate, 2020-2024

Susan Groden McDonald, Paralegal, 2007-2009

Abel McDonnell, Associate, 2014-2017

Avery D. Medjuck, Associate, 2018-2020

Christopher Milione, Associate, 2015-2017, 2018-2019

Marco Minichiello, Associate, 2017-2022

Douglas Morris, Associate, 1983-1989

Alok Nadig, Associate, 2015-2017

David Nelson, Associate, 2000-2004

Raymond Ngu, Summer Associate, 2018-2019

Renata O'Donnell, Associate, 2020-2021

Caitlin O'Meara, Paralegal, 2006-2009

Anthony O'Rourke, Associate, 2006-2007

Leo O'Toole, Associate, 2017-2018

Lynn Oberlander, Associate, 1992-1996

Claudette Orlando, Associate, 2017-2019

Amisha Patel, Associate, 2006-2010

Ben Perotin, Associate, 2014-2016, 2018-2021, 2022-2023

Taylor J. Phares, Associate, 2016-2018

Steven Popofksy, Associate, 1982-1986

Ben Probber, Associate, 2012-2016

Greg Pruden, Associate, 2015-2018

Edward A. Purcell, Jr., Associate, 1980-1983, 1984-1989

Anthony Radice, Associate, 1972-1978

Marissa Reichel, Associate, 2017-2019

Trey Reliford, Associate, 2013-2016, 2017-2019

Christman Rice, Associate, 2013-2016, 2019-2021

Dorothy Roberts, Associate, 1981-1988

Khadijah Robinson, SEO Intern, 2012

Julie Rooney, Associate, 2018-2021

Davin Rosborough, Associate, 2011-2013

Catherine J. Ross, Associate, 1987-1994

Constance Royster, Associate, 1978-1979, 1981-1983

Laura Rozier, Paralegal, 2015-2017

Daniella A. Schmidt, Associate, 2013-2018

Adina Schwartz, Associate, 1985-1988

Rebecca Shore, Associate, 2000-2008

Andrew Siegel, Summer Associate, 1998

Jonathan Siegfried, Associate, 1975-1981

Andrea Simon, Associate, 1985-1987

Cassius Sims, Associate, 2010-2012

Peter Slag, Pro Bono Coordinator, 2017-2019

Jeff Sovern, Associate, 1981-1983

Ellen Spivey, Paralegal, 2004-2011

Mary Spooner, Associate, 2013-2022

Jim Stanley, Associate, 2012-2016

Jake E. Struebing, Associate, 2018-2023

Margaret Sun, Associate, 2017, 2019-2020

Giorgio Traini, Associate, 2017-2023

Hilary Udow, Associate, 2019-2021

Gerald Uram, Associate, 1967-1974

Matthew Weiser, Associate, 2010-2017

Hillary Weisman, Associate, 1984-1987

Catherine Weiss, Associate, 2019-2020

Jeffrey Wiener, Associate, 2013-2015

Clay Wild, Associate, 2020-2023

Alexandra Willingham, Associate, 2020-2021

Charles Wolf, Associate, 2011-2013

The following individuals wish to sign anonymously. They are listed by their terminal title and years at the firm:

Associate, 2015-2017, 2019-2020

Associate, 2013-2019

Associate, 2015-2017

Associate, 2018-2021

Associate, 2013-2020

Associate, 2011-2021

Associate, 2011-2019

Associate, 2013-2017

Associate, 2012, 2013-2017

Associate, 2017-2019

Associate, 2015, 2017-2019

Associate, 2019-2022

Associate, 2014-2021

Associate, 2015-2022

Associate, 2009-2017

Associate, 2011-2018

Associate, 2016-2020

Associate, 2019-2022

Associate, 2019-2021

Associate, 2018-2021

Associate, 2013-2018

Associate, 2013-2019

Associate, 2019-2024

Associate, 2018-2021

Counsel, 2012-2018

Associate, 2009-2015

Associate, 2012-2017

Associate, 2013-2016

Associate, 2017-2023

Associate, 2013-2017

Associate, 2016-2021

Associate, 2015-2020

Associate, 2016-2021

Summer Associate, 2014-2015

Associate, 2011-2013, 2016-2018

Associate, 2017-2021

Associate, 2013-2017

Associate, 2016-2021

Associate, 2016-2021

Associate, 2014-2016

Associate, 2018-2021

Associate, 2017-2020

Associate, 1993-1997

Associate, 2017-2021

Associate, 2013-2015

Associate, 2013-2019

Business Development Coordinator, 2021-2023

Associate, 2019-2024