

Hon. Pamela Bondi
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Bondi:

We are former state and federal judges who join together to condemn the Trump Administration's attacks on the judiciary, including its recent arrest of Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Hannah Dugan in her courthouse. This latest action is yet another attempt to intimidate and threaten the judiciary after a series of rulings by judges appointed by presidents of both parties holding the Trump Administration accountable for its countless violations of the Constitution and laws of the United States. On April 25, you called judges "deranged" and said that "[the Administration is] sending a very strong message" and that "we will come after you and we will prosecute you." On April 28, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt went so far as to say that the Trump Administration will not rule out arresting members of the United States Supreme Court.

The intent to intimidate Judge Dugan and the judiciary is clear from the circumstances of Judge Dugan's arrest which took place seven days after the alleged offense. There was no emergency whatsoever; the administration could have easily issued a summons for Judge Dugan to appear before a court, as they would have done in other white collar cases. There is not an ounce of doubt that Judge Dugan would have appeared in court in response to a summons. Instead, the United States Department of Justice at your direction decided to create an embarrassing spectacle that included the FBI's arrest and handcuffing of Judge Dugan and the Director of the FBI, Kash Patel, posting a [photo of the perp walk on X](#). As you know well, the [Confidentiality and Media Contacts Policy](#) that appears on the Justice Department's website directs that DOJ personnel "should not voluntarily disclose a photograph of a defendant unless it serves a law enforcement function or unless the photograph is already part of the public record in the case."

The circumstances of Judge Dugan's arrest make it clear that it was nothing but an effort to threaten and intimidate the state and federal judiciaries into submitting to the Administration, instead of interpreting the Constitution and laws of the United States. This cynical effort undermines the rule of law and destroys the trust the American people have in the nation's judges to administer justice in the courtrooms and in the halls of justice across the land.

This attempt to intimidate the judiciary will fail. The American people understand that the Constitution of the United States has made the nation's judicial officers the guardians of the rule of law in our country, not the President. The nation's judiciary does not operate at the President's instruction or at his discretion. That is why the American people trust judges as guardians of the Constitution and the Rule of Law.

We unequivocally reject your and the Trump Administration's assault on the judiciary, the Rule of Law and those who administer it, including Judge Dugan. This does not make us “deranged.” It’s what makes us Americans.

Sincerely,

Judge Nancy Gertner, U.S. District Judge, District of Massachusetts (Ret.)
Judge Michael Luttig, U.S. Circuit Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit (Ret.)
Judge Verna A. Adams, Marin County Superior Court, California (Ret.)
Chief Justice Jeffrey Amestoy, Vermont Supreme Court (Ret.)
Judge Elaine Andrews, Alaska Superior Court (Ret.)
Judge Beth M. Andrus, Washington State Court of Appeals (Ret.)
Judge Stephanie A. Arend, Pierce County Superior Court, Wisconsin (Ret.)
Judge Sharon S. Armstrong, King County Superior Court, Washington (Ret.)
Justice Carol S. Ball, Massachusetts Superior Court (Ret.)
Chief Justice Thomas A. Balmer, Oregon Supreme Court (Ret.)
Judge Paul A. Bastine, Spokane County Superior Court, Washington (Ret.)
Associate Justice William W. Bedsworth, California Court of Appeal (Ret.)
Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb, Alabama Supreme Court (Ret.)
Chief Justice Michael L. Bender, Colorado Supreme Court (Ret.)
Judge Mark W. Bennett, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Iowa (Ret.)
Judge Linda L. Bergman, Multnomah Circuit Court, Oregon (Ret.)
Associate Justice Margot Botsford, Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (Ret.)
Associate Justice Bobbe J. Bridge, Washington Supreme Court (Ret.)
Judge Regina S. Cahan, King County Superior Court, Washington (Ret.)
Judge William Cahill, San Francisco County Superior Court, California (Ret.)
Chief Justice Walter L. Carpeneti, Alaska Supreme Court (Ret.)
Judge Wynne Carvill, Alameda County Superior Court, California (Ret.)
Judge Paula Casey, Thurston County Superior Court, Washington (Ret.)
Judge Patrick A. Cathcart, Los Angeles County Superior Court, California (Ret.)
Judge Harriett M. Cody, King County Superior Court, Washington (Ret.)
Associate Justice Carol Ann Conboy, New Hampshire Supreme Court (Ret.)
Chief Justice Dori Contreras, Texas Thirteenth District Court of Appeals (Ret.)
Associate Justice Patricia Cotter, Montana Supreme Court (Ret.)
Judge Susan E. Cox, U.S. Magistrate Judge, Northern District of Illinois (Ret.)
Judge Ronald E. Culpepper, Pierce County Superior Court, Washington (Ret.)
Judge Beverly W. Cutler, Alaska Superior Court, 3rd Judicial District (Ret.)
Judge Lisa Daniel Flores, Maricopa County Superior Court, Arizona (Ret.)
Judge James Dannenberg, Hawaii State District Court (Ret.)
Judge Morton Denlow, U.S. Magistrate Judge, Northern District of Illinois (Ret.)
Judge Michael Dolinger, U.S. Magistrate Judge, Southern District of New York (Ret.)
Associate Justice Robert L. Dondero, California Court of Appeals (Ret.)
Judge Sally Duncan, Maricopa County Superior Court, Arizona (Ret.)
Judge David K. Duncan, U.S. Magistrate, Judge District of Arizona (Ret.)
Judge Lynn Duryee, Marin County Superior Court, California (Ret.)

Justice Mark Dwyer, New York State Supreme Court (Ret.)
Judge Anita H. Dymant, Los Angeles Superior Court, California (Ret.)
Judge John P. Erlick, King County Superior Court, Washington (Ret.)
Justice Saralee Evans, New York State Supreme Court (Ret.)
Justice Joseph Fahey, Acting New York State Supreme Court Justice (Ret.)
Judge Noel Fidel, Arizona Court of Appeals (Ret.)
Judge Francisco Firmat, Orange County Superior Court, California (Ret.)
Judge James C. Francis IV, U.S. Magistrate Judge Southern District of New York (Ret.)
Judge Helen Freedman, New York Supreme Court (Ret.)
Judge Julia L. Garratt, King County Superior Court, Washington (Ret.)
Judge Deborra Garrett, Washington Superior Court, Whatcom County (Ret.)
Judge David George, First Judicial District of Alaska (Ret.)
Judge Tim Gerking, Jackson County Circuit Court, Oregon (Ret.)
Justice Janine P. Geske, Wisconsin Supreme Court (Ret.)
Judge Marilyn Go, U.S. Magistrate Judge, Eastern District of New York (Ret.)
Judge Steven M. Gold, U.S. Magistrate Judge, Eastern District of New York (Ret.)
Judge A. Benjamin Goldgar, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge, Northern District of Illinois (Ret.)
Justice Emily Jane Goodman, New York State Supreme Court (Ret.)
Judge Ernestine S. Gray, Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, Louisiana (Ret.)
Chief Justice Mark V. Green, Massachusetts Appeals Court (Ret.)
Associate Justice L. Priscilla Hall, New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division (Ret.)
Judge Helen Halpert, King County Superior Court, Washington (Ret.)
Judge Leslie A. Hayashi, Hawaii District Court, First Circuit (Ret.)
Judge Michael Hayden, King County Superior Court, Washington (Ret.)
Associate Judge Brook Hedge, D.C. Superior Court (Ret.)
Judge Thelton Henderson, U.S. District Judge, Northern District of California (Ret.)
Judge Bethany G. Hicks, Maricopa County Superior Court, Arizona (Ret.)
Associate Justice Geraldine Hines, Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (Ret.)
Judge Vicki L. Hogan, Pierce County Superior Court, Washington (Ret.)
Judge J. Robin Hunt, Washington Court of Appeals (Ret.)
Judge Laura C. Inveen, King County Superior Court, Washington (Ret.)
Judge Barbara Jaffe, New York State Supreme Court (Ret.)
Chief Justice Wallace B. Jefferson, Texas Supreme Court (Ret.)
Judge Lowell Jensen, U.S. District Judge, Northern District of California (Ret.)
Associate Justice Earl Johnson Jr., California Court of Appeals (Ret.)
Associate Justice Marcy L. Kahn, New York State Supreme Court Appellate Division (Ret.)
Judge Henry Kantor, Multnomah Circuit Court, Oregon (Ret.)
Associate Judge Anne Keary, D.C. Superior Court (Ret.)
Judge Ronald Kessler, King County Superior Court, Washington (Ret.)
Judge Steven J. Kleifield, Los Angeles Superior Court, California (Ret.)
Judge Michael S. Kupersmith, Vermont Superior Court (Ret.)
Judge David A. Kurtz, Snohomish County Superior Court Washington (Ret.)
Judge James Larson, U.S. Magistrate Judge Northern District of California (Ret.)
Judge Michael A. Latin, Los Angeles Superior Court (Ret.)

Judge Linda Lau, King County Superior Court Washington State Court of Appeals (Ret.)
Associate Justice Barbara A. Lenk, Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (Ret.)
Judge John P. Leopold, Colorado District Court (Ret.)
Judge Keith Levy, Alaska District Court First District (Ret.)
Judge Michael Paul Linfield, Superior Court of Los Angeles County (Ret.)
Judge John Lohrmann, Walla Walla County Superior Court, Washington (Ret.)
Judge Richard Lyman, California Superior Court (Ret.)
Judge Barbara Mack, King County Superior Court, Washington (Ret.)
Judge Patrick J. Mahoney, San Francisco Superior Court (Ret.)
Judge Roanne L. Mann, U.S. Magistrate Judge, Eastern District of New York (Ret.)
Judge Victoria S. Marks, Hawaii First Circuit Court (Ret.)
Justice Mary Anne Mason, Illinois Appellate Court, 1st District (Ret.)
Justice Mary McGowan Davis, New York State Supreme Court, NY County (Ret.)
Associate Justice James F. McHugh, Massachusetts Appeals Court (Ret.)
Judge Kevin McKenney, Santa Clara County Superior and Municipal Courts (Ret.)
Judge Christopher Melly, Washington State Superior Court, Clallam County (Ret.)
Judge Louis James Menendez, Alaska Superior Court (Ret.)
Judge John Meyer, Washington Superior Court (Ret.)
Judge Rita Miller, Los Angeles Superior Court (Ret.)
Judge David Minge, Minnesota Court of Appeals (Ret.)
Associate Judge John M. Mott, D.C. Superior Court (Ret.)
Justice Christopher J. Muse, Massachusetts Superior Court (Ret.)
Judge Denise Navarre Cubbon, Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division (Ret.)
Associate Justice James C. Nelson, Montana Supreme Court (Ret.)
Judge Peggy J. Nelson, 8th Judicial District Court of New Mexico (Ret.)
Judge Leslie C. Nichols, Santa Clara County Superior Court, California (Ret.)
Associate Judge Rita M. Novak, Cook County Circuit Court, Illinois (Ret.)
Acting Justice Michael J. Obus, New York County Supreme Court, New York (Ret.)
Judge Rafael Ongkeko, Superior Court of California (Ret.)
Judge Brian Owsley, U.S. Magistrate Judge, Southern District of Texas (Ret.)
Judge Gary Oxenhandler, 13th Missouri Circuit (Ret.)
Judge Philip M. Pallenberg, Alaska Superior Court (Ret.)
Chief Justice Barbara J. Pariente, Florida Supreme Court (Ret.)
Judge Lynn Pickard, New Mexico Court of Appeals (Ret.)
Judge DeanB. Pineles, Vermont District Court (Ret.)
Judge Maurice Portley, Arizona Court of Appeals (Ret.)
Associate Justice Fernande R.V.Duffly, Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (Ret.)
Judge Jeffrey M. Ramsdell, King County Superior Court, Washington (Ret.)
Judge Judith H. Ramseyer, King County Superior Court, Washington (Ret.)
Justice Rosalyn Richter, New York State Court Appellate Division, First Department (Ret.)
Judge Palmer Robinson, King County Superior Court, Washington (Ret.)
Judge Erik Rohrer, Clallam County Superior Court, Washington (Ret.)
Judge John Romero, 2nd Judicial District Court, New Mexico (Ret.)
Judge David A. Rosen, Los Angeles Superior Court (Ret.)

Judge Carol Schapira, King County Superior Court, Washington (Ret.)
Judge Shira A. Scheindlin, U.S. District Judge, Southern District of New York (Ret.)
Judge Ann Schindler, Washington State Court of Appeals (Ret.)
Judge Barry C. Schneider, Maricopa County Superior Court (Ret.)
Judge Robert Schnider, Los Angeles County Superior Court (Ret.)
Judge Richard L. Seabolt, Alameda County Superior Court, California (Ret.)
Judge Catherine Shaffer, King County Superior Court, Washington (Ret.)
Judge Nan R. Shuker, D.C. Superior Court (Ret.)
Judge Jacqueline Silbermann, Supreme Court, New York County, New York (Ret.)
Judge Fern M. Smith, U.S. District Judge, Northern District of California (Ret.)
Associate Justice Sheila Sonenshine, California Court of Appeals (Ret.)
Judge Merri Souther Wyatt, Oregon Circuit Court, Multnomah County (Ret.)
Judge Michael Spearman, Washington State Court of Appeals (Ret.)
Judge Julie Spector, King County Superior Court, Washington (Ret.)
Judge Diana I. Stuart, Oregon Circuit Court (Ret.)
Judge Paul Suzuki, Los Angeles Superior Court (Ret.)
Judge Jeffrey Swartz, Miami-Dade County Court, Florida (Ret.)
Chief Justice Marsha Ternus, Iowa Supreme Court (Ret.)
Judge Philip E. Toci, Arizona Court of Appeals (Ret.)
Judge Michael IJ. Trickey, Washington State Superior Court and Court of Appeals (Ret.)
Associate Justice Annabelle Imber Tuck, Arkansas Supreme Court (Ret.)
Judge Jack Vandenorth, Second Judicial District, Ramsey County, Minnesota (Ret.)
Judge Emily E. Vasquez, Sacramento County Superior Court, California (Ret.)
Judge Art Wang, Washington Court of Appeals (Ret.)
Judge T. John Ward, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Texas (Ret.)
Judge Anthony P. Wartnik, King County Superior Court, Washington (Ret.)
Judge Gene Wedoff, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge, Northern District of Illinois (Ret.)
Judge Larry Weeks, Alaska Superior Court, First District (Ret.)
Judge Kerry Wells, San Diego County Superior Court, California (Ret.)
Judge John P. Wesley, Vermont Superior Judge (Ret.)
Judge Ken Williams, Clallam County Superior Court, Washington (Ret.)
Judge Jeffrey K. Winikow, Los Angeles Superior Court, California (Ret.)
Judge Beverly Wood, Marin County Superior Court, California (Ret.)
Judge Margie G. Woods, San Diego County Superior Court, California (Ret.)
Judge Thomas J. Wynne, Washington Superior Court (Ret.)
Chief Justice Michael Zimmerman, Utah Supreme Court (Ret.)
Chief Justice Thomas A. Zlaket, Arizona Supreme Court (Ret.)