

April 22, 2025

BY EMAIL

Todd Blanche  
Deputy Attorney General  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Deputy Attorney General Blanche,

The Department placed each of us on administrative leave ostensibly to review our, and the Southern District of New York U.S. Attorney's Office's, handling of the *Adams* case. It is now clear that one of the preconditions you have placed on our returning to the Office is that we must express regret and admit some wrongdoing by the Office in connection with the refusal to move to dismiss the case. We will not confess wrongdoing when there was none.

We have served under Presidents of both parties, advancing their priorities while pursuing justice without fear or favor. The role of a career prosecutor is not to set policy. But a prosecutor must abide by the oath to uphold the Constitution and laws of the United States and the rules of professional ethics set by the bar and the courts. The Department has long understood that these duties can and should coexist with the need to follow Department policies and orders. This is to the benefit of all: the courts, defendants, and the public, who can have confidence in the good faith and judgment of line prosecutors; the Department, which retains credibility while still receiving zealous advocacy from its lawyers; and the prosecutors themselves, who can stand in court confident that they are ethically carrying out their duties. Now, the Department has decided that obedience supersedes all else, requiring us to abdicate our legal and ethical obligations in favor of directions from Washington. That is wrong.

Serving in the Southern District of New York has been an honor. There is no greater privilege than to work for an institution whose mandate is to do the right thing, the right way, for the right reasons. We will not abandon this principle to keep our jobs. We resign.

Sincerely,

/s/

Celia V. Cohen  
Andrew Rohrbach  
Derek Wikstrom  
Assistant United States Attorneys