


## Law firm partners back Susman Godfrey in lawsuit over Trump executive order

By Sara Merken

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Unidentified people gesture after the opening of the new Terminal 10 at the Cointrin airport in Geneva November 20, 2008. REUTERS/Denis Balibouse/File Photo [Purchase Licensing Rights](#) 

### Summary Companies

Association of more than 700 partners files court brief assailing Trump orders  
Signatories include lawyers at three firms that struck deals with Trump  
Judges are weighing whether to strike down Trump's law firm orders

April 25 (Reuters) - An association of more than 700 partners at major U.S. law firms submitted a court brief on Friday supporting Susman Godfrey in its federal lawsuit challenging U.S. President Donald Trump's executive order against the firm.

Trump's punitive orders targeting Susman and other law firms "threaten the legal profession, the judiciary, and the rule of law itself," the filing said.

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The [friend-of-the-court brief](#) <sup>3</sup>, filed in Susman's case in Washington, D.C., by the non-profit Law Firm Partners United, comes as some lawyers have [split with their firms](#) over the response to Trump's intensifying crackdown on the legal profession.

At least 110 individual law partners signed the brief. The filing said the association's more than 700 members, all partners at the 200 largest law firms in the US by revenue, were supporting Susman in their personal capacities, not on behalf of their firms.

The signatories included three partners from law firms that reached deals with Trump to avoid White House actions like the Susman executive order. The partners and their firms - Cadwalader, Simpson Thacher and Willkie Farr - did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The lawyers' organization said in a statement that its members "are driven by a collective commitment to protect the rule of law in the United States."

Susman Godfrey [sued earlier this month](#) to block Trump's order, which restricted its lawyers' access to government buildings and officials, and threatened to cancel federal contracts held by its clients.

The executive order accused Susman Godfrey of undermining U.S. elections, which it has denied. The firm has represented machine voting company Dominion Voting Systems in defamation lawsuits against Trump's allies who repeated false claims that the 2020 election was rigged in favor of Democrat Joe Biden.

"Orders like this tell the entire profession that taking on cases and clients that are out of favor with the current administration may result in severe retaliation," Friday's brief said.

Judges have already issued rulings [temporarily blocking](#) key provisions of Trump's similar orders against Susman; Perkins Coie; WilmerHale; and Jenner & Block; finding that the president's actions likely violated constitutional protections for free speech and due process.

All four firms have asked the federal court in Washington to [permanently strike down](#) Trump's orders. The Justice Department has argued that Trump acted within his authority to penalize the firms for allegedly working to "weaponize" the legal system against him and his allies.

The Justice Department did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the lawyers' brief.

Nine other law firms have [pledged \\$940 million](#) so far in free legal work and made other concessions to Trump in efforts to rescind or avoid punitive measures against them, leading some lawyers at the firms to [quit in response](#).

Most of the largest U.S. law firms have remained on the sidelines. Only a handful of major firms have joined [court briefs](#) supporting law firms that are suing the Trump administration.

Law professors, advocacy groups, state attorneys general, former top legal executives at large companies and others have also filed court briefs in support of the challenges.

Reporting by Sara Merken, David Thomas and Mike Scarcella

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