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Apr 12, 2025 - Politics & Policy

Law firms pledge almost \$1 billion in free work to Trump



Sam Baker



Value of pro bono services provided to Trump, by firm

As of April 11, 2025

Firm	Amount
Paul, Weiss	\$40m
Skadden Arps	\$100m
Wilkie	\$100m
Milbank	\$100m
Latham & Watkins	\$125m
Simpson Thacher	\$125m
Kirkland & Ellis	\$125m
A & O Shearman	\$125m
Cadwalader	\$100m
Total	\$940m

Data: Axios research; Chart: Axios Visuals

America's most prestigious law firms have agreed to provide almost \$1 billion worth of legal work to President Trump — and that total will likely grow.

- Trump announced deals with 5 firms Friday. He's now gotten the giants of Big Law to pledge a combined \$940 million in pro bono legal work for conservative causes.

Zoom in: Trump began this process by signing executive orders targeting firms that had employed or represented his critics.

- The first firm to cut a deal — Paul, Weiss — argued that \$40 million in pro bono work was a small price to pay compared to the money, clients and even top talent it could have lost if it chose to fight.

- As more firms have capitulated, Trump has been able to extract significantly bigger concessions using significantly less leverage, even from firms with which he had no personal grievance.

Four of yesterday's agreements came from firms that were placed under investigation for their internal diversity policies — a less severe threat than Trump's early tactic of revoking lawyers' security clearances.

- They each agreed to provide \$125 million worth of work on issues that both Trump and the firms support.

The other side: Three of the prestigious law firms targeted by Trump have [opted to fight](#) his threats in court rather than make a deal.



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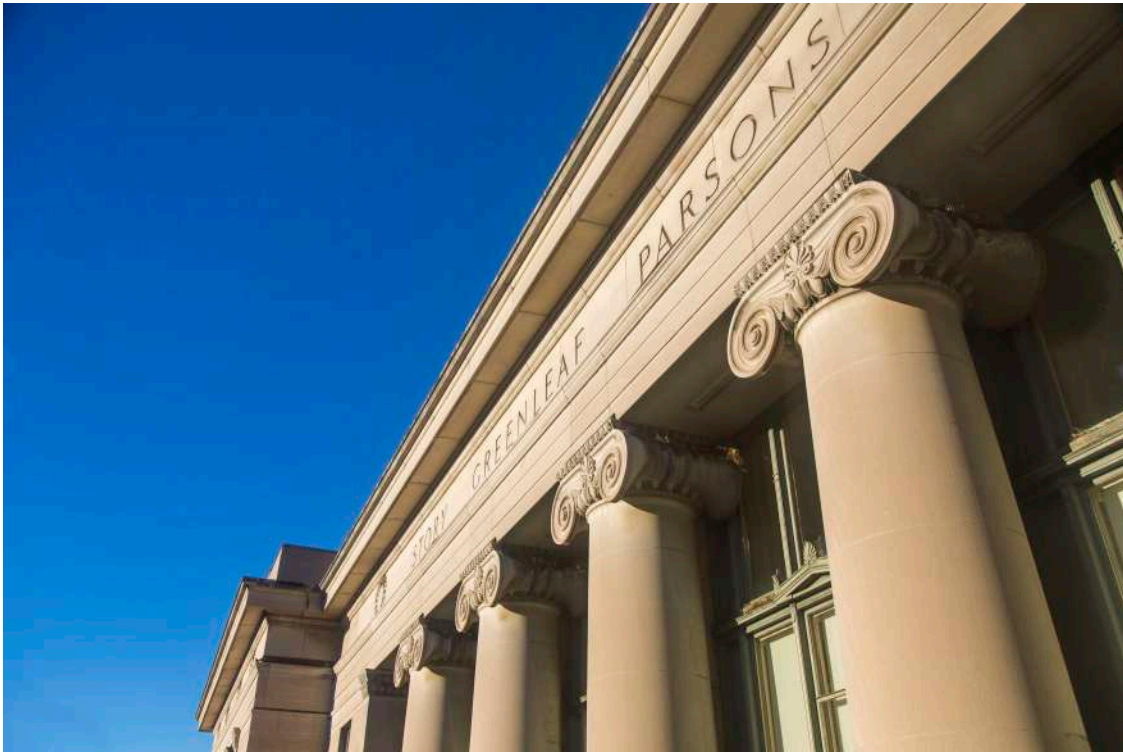
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Emily Peck
Mar 30, 2025 - Business

Harvard Law professors blast Trump crackdown
in open letter



Langdell Hall Library on the campus of Harvard Law School; Photo: Brooks Kraft LLC/Corbis via Getty Images

At least 94 professors at Harvard Law School signed a letter to students condemning the Trump administration's "severe" challenge to the [rule of law](#) and legal profession.

Why it matters: That's more than three-quarters of the elite school's [active faculty](#), and the latest sign that some lawyers are pushing back on what are widely viewed as unprecedented attacks on the profession.

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April Rubin
Apr 3, 2025 - Politics & Policy

Trump's war on lawyers and judges draws rebuke from dozens of advocacy groups



President Trump speaks to members of the media before boarding Marine One on the South Lawn of the White House on April 3 in Washington, D.C. Photo: Andrew Harnik/Getty Images

More than 80 U.S. organizations released an open letter on Thursday against President [Trump](#)'s intimidation of judges who challenge his administration's policies and law firms he views as adversaries.

Why it matters: The letter adds to the [mounting](#) public [pressure](#) against perceived overreaches of the Trump administration.

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April Rubin
Updated Mar 25, 2025 - Politics & Policy

Mueller report prosecutor's law firm targeted in new Trump executive order



President Trump signs executive orders during a meeting with U.S. Ambassadors in the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington, D.C. on March 25. Photo: Mandel Ngan/AFP via Getty Images

President [Trump](#) signed an executive order on Tuesday sanctioning another law firm, Jenner & Block, with stripped security clearances and contract reviews.

Why it matters: Trump is again retaliating against law firms he views as political opponents, this time targeting a lawyer who was involved with ex-special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Trump's first election.

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