

Trump hangs sword of Damocles over the American legal system

Trump is directing Attorney General Pam Bondi to target lawyers and law firms “who engage in frivolous, unreasonable, and vexatious litigation against the United States.”



“Lawyers and law firms that engage in actions that violate the laws of the United States or rules governing attorney conduct must be efficiently and effectively held accountable,” the memo reads.

In it, Trump directs Bondi to seek sanctions against lawyers and law firms that “engage in frivolous, unreasonable, and vexatious litigation against the United States.” He also pushes Bondi and Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem to “prioritize enforcement” of proper attorney conduct.

Any unethical or unprofessional conduct will result in disciplinary action, the memo warns, which could include revoking security clearances and federal contracts — a lever he has already pulled repeatedly to target several firms with clients that have challenged Trump.

This enforcement will also be retroactive, as the memo instructs Bondi to look back at the conduct of lawyers or law firms over the last eight years for misconduct.

Trump has already attacked federal judges who have ruled against him on key cases like deportations of migrants. He called for the impeachment of U.S. District Judge James Boasberg — the chief judge of the federal district court of Washington, D.C. — after he issued a halt on deportations of immigrants to El Salvador.

Friday's memorandum comes as the nation's [law firms are already running scared over Trump's promised retribution](#). Several lawyers that spoke to POLITICO shared their fear after the executive orders targeting specific law firms in a retaliatory spree connected to his political rivals.

Trump first retaliated against [Washington law firm Covington & Burling in February](#) by stripping the security clearances of lawyers and other personnel who gave legal services to Jack Smith, the federal prosecutor who brought criminal charges against Trump. Trump has repeatedly referenced the "weaponization" of the legal system against him, in part due to Smith's prosecution.