

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewidth.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 10:13 AM

To: eric_teetsel@hawley.senate.gov; tyler_grasmeyer@sasse.senate.gov; scheduling@whitehouse.senate.gov; scheduling@hirono.senate.gov; scheduler_cruz@cruz.senate.gov; cruz_press@cruz.senate.gov; brian_winseck@coons.senate.gov; cassie_fields@coons.senate.gov; saurabh_sanghvi@coons.senate.gov; aaron_stanislawski@coons.senate.gov

Subject: **President Biden's 4 US Attorney Nominees for NY -- & request for documents, particularly relating to their conflicts of interest vis-a-vis the Dec. 19, 2020 "swamp-draining" public corruption complaint that NY's acting US Attorneys are "sitting on"**

Attachments: [8-4-21-hawley.pdf](#)

TO: U.S. SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

This follows the voice messages I left on the Committee's phone line (202-224-7703) at 1:29 pm on Friday, August 13th and at 9:35 am on Monday, August 16th, in the absence of pick-up by a live person. I have received no return call.

I did have a half-hour phone conversation on Monday with Chesney Mallory, a legislative aide with the Committee's minority Republican office, when she called me at about 12:45 pm in response to the voice message I had left two hours earlier, at 10:35 am, at the Senate office number of Ranking Member Grassley (202-224-3744). She was unaware of my voice message, left an hour before that, at 9:23 am, at the Committee's minority office number (202-224-5225), which I had called upon finding that number in the [FAQ section](#) of the Committee's website under the heading "How can the Committee be contacted?" Ms. Mallory explained that the Democratic majority controls the Committee's website and had not replaced that number with its own – and I explained to her that it was not at all clear to me, upon leaving my message, that, in fact, the recorded pick-up provided a voice message option.

As discussed with Ms. Mallory, the reason for my voice messages was President Biden's four nominees of U.S. Attorneys for New York, announced by the White House on [July 26th](#) and [August 10th](#) and now before the Committee for confirmation: Trini Ross ([WDNY – PN#931](#)); Breon Peace ([EDNY – PN #1036](#)); Damian Williams ([SDNY – PN #1038](#)); and Carla Freedman ([NDNY – PN #1042](#)).

Please have a Committee counsel call me, as soon as possible, as I believe The White House vetting of these nominees to have been deficient, based on my two written communications to The White House, sent *via* its website messaging system, [on March 23rd](#) and [April 27th](#), alerting it to the necessity of careful vetting based on a [FULLY-DOCUMENTED December 19, 2020 public corruption complaint](#) that New York's four acting U.S. Attorneys have been "sitting on" – to which I received no response from The White House, other than automated acknowledgments of receipt. I believe this deficient vetting is to enable the four U.S. Attorney nominees, if confirmed, to disregard their conflicts of interest and politicize their offices by "protecting" from prosecution the New York state public officers who are the subject of the "swamp-draining" December 19, 2020 corruption complaint – the highest and majority of whom are Democrats – which is what New York's acting U.S. Attorneys have been doing. This is set forth by my above-attached August 4th letter to Senator Hawley, as well as the fact that former President Trump is one of the victims of New York's "swamp" of corruption and politicization, involving the FBI and New York's four acting U.S.

Attorneys. Below are my e-mails transmitting the August 4th letter to Senator Hawley's legislative director, Eric Teetsel, three times – on August 4th, August 11th, and August 12th – without response.

I additionally request that the Committee provide me with all publicly-available documents it has received from The White House pertaining to these four U.S. Attorney nominees for New York, most importantly the written questionnaires they were required to complete, with their listed references and supporting letters of recommendation, such being germane to conflicts of interest they will have *vis-a-vis* the December 19, 2020 public corruption complaint, whose investigation and prosecution will be their duty to ensure, if confirmed.

I also request all publicly-available documents as to:

- (1) the Committee's process for vetting and confirming U.S. Attorney nominees, including the blank written questionnaire forms it requires them to complete, if it so-requires;**
- (2) the names of the Committee staffers responsible for reviewing information furnished by members of the public pertaining to U.S. Attorney nominees – and their e-mail addresses and phone numbers;**
- (3) the e-mail addresses of the Committee's 22 Senate members – and the names and e-mail addresses of their counsels assisting them on U.S. Attorney nominations.**

The above was already drafted by the time Ms. Mallory called me at 12:45 pm on Monday – and I read it to her. It has since been slightly expanded and modified to reflect the supervening event of her call and to remove from my above three enumerated requests invocation of the Freedom of Information Act [FOIA], which Ms. Mallory told me does not apply to Congress. In any event, I do not believe that a single senator can justify a refusal to provide most, if not all, of the above-requested documents/information – or, indeed, to justify the failure of the Committee's website to inform the public that it has a participatory role in the Committee's work, particularly the vetting of nominees, and instructions as to how the public can best provide pertinent information to the Committee.

On that subject, I spent considerable time with Ms. Mallory reviewing that the [Senate Judiciary Committee website](#): (1) furnishes no information about the Committee's minority office, including its phone number; (2) furnishes no e-mail address for itself; (3) has NO website messaging feature, such as appears on the Senate websites of its 22 Senate members, in lieu of e-mail addresses – with none of these 22 website messaging features having an option for attachments so that members of the public might transmit documentary evidence in substantiation of their messages. I pointed out to Ms. Mallory that Senator Grassley is obviously aware of – and seeks to justify – this by the note, [at the bottom of his messaging feature page](#), *"For security reasons, no attachments are able to be included with your message. Please fax any attachments to 202-224-6020."* The comparable messaging webpages of the Committee's 21 other members, albeit without that note, are here: [Senator Durbin](#); [Senator Leahy](#); [Senator Whitehouse](#); [Senator Coons](#); [Senator Hirono](#); [Senator Padilla](#); [Senator Feinstein](#); [Senator Klobuchar](#); [Senator Blumenthal](#); [Senator Booker](#); [Senator Ossoff](#); [Senator Graham](#); [Senator Lee](#); [Senator Sasse](#); [Senator Cotton](#); [Senator Tillis](#); [Senator Cornyn](#); [Senator Cruz](#); [Senator Hawley](#); [Senator Kennedy](#); [Senator Blackburn](#).

Although my phone conversation with Ms. Mallory made obvious that I am a responsible, knowledgeable citizen with significant information to provide, both as to White House vetting and the four U.S. Attorney nominees for New York – and knowledgeable of the Committee's recognition, as by its [June 18, 2018 oversight hearing](#), of the dangers of a politicized FBI and Justice Department – she declined to furnish me

with any e-mail address that I could use to send the drafted e-mail I had read her. She stated she would have to get authorization from a superior – putting me on hold for that purpose. With none apparently available, she took my contact information – phone and e-mail both – to pass on to Committee minority nominations counsel, with a summary of our nearly half-hour conversation. That was at approximately 1:15 pm on Monday and I have received no return call or e-mail since.

For purposes of completeness, I here further memorialize that on Friday, August 13th, in the absence of any response from Senator Hawley’s office to my below August 4th, August 11th, and August 12th e-mails, all with the above-attached August 4th letter – and prior to leaving my 1:29 pm voice message at the Committee’s number – I phoned the Washington offices of Senator Cotton at 1:02 pm (202-224-2353) and Senator Kennedy at 1:08 p.m. (202-224-4623), leaving reasonably detailed voice messages – to which I have received no return calls. I also phoned the Washington office of Senator Blackburn at 2:20 pm (202-224-3344), furnishing her staff assistant Jen with a more detailed message, including objecting to what Jen described to be a policy of not giving out e-mails. I have received no return call from these three Senate offices either – and no e-mails, despite the fact that I believe I also furnished my e-mail address in all three messages.

Also on Friday, August 13th – and after my calls to the offices of Senators Cotton, Kennedy, and Blackburn and the call I then made to the Committee’s number – I discovered the Committee’s “[Subcommittees](#)” webpage, posting phone numbers for six of its eight subcommittees, both their majority and minority offices. I called the minority office number for the “Subcommittee on Federal Courts, Oversight, Agency Action, and Federal Rights” (202-224-4224), which was picked up by a staffer for Senator Sasse, who is apparently the ranking member of that subcommittee. I briefly described the reason for my call and obtained the name of Senator Sasse’s deputy chief of staff, who is serving as his interim staffer for the Committee, Tyler Grasmeyer – and his e-mail: tyler_grasmeyer@sasse.senate.gov.

Yesterday, Tuesday, August 17th, realizing that the “Subcommittee on Criminal Justice and Counterterrorism” would more likely be the one whose jurisdiction includes nominations of the 93 U.S. Attorneys, I called the phone number indicated for its minority office (202-224-6154). Low and behold, the recording I got was for Senator Hawley, apparently that subcommittee’s ranking member – and left a voice message (at 12 noon). I then called the phone number indicated for the subcommittee’s majority office (202-224-2921) – and got a recording for Senator Whitehouse, apparently its chair, and left a voice message (at 12:05 pm). I then finished up by calling the phone number for the majority office of the “Subcommittee on Federal Courts, Oversight, Agency Action, and Federal Rights” (202-224-2823) – and got a recording for Senator Blumenthal, apparently its chair – and left a voice message (at 12:26 pm).

It is now Wednesday morning, August 18th, and in the absence of any call backs or e-mails, I am sending this e-mail to the e-mail addresses I have for Senator Hawley’s legislative director, Eric Teetsel, and for Senator Sasse’s deputy chief of staff/interim staffer for Judiciary, Tyler Grasmeyer, plus to Senator Whitehouse’s posted e-mail address, scheduling@whitehouse.senate.gov, to Senator Hirono’s posted e-mail address, scheduling@hirono.senate.gov, to Senator Cruz’s two posted e-mail addresses, scheduler_cruz@cruz.senate.gov and cruz_press@cruz.senate.gov, and to what I believe may be the e-mail addresses of Senator Coon’s legislative director, Brian Winseck, and his three counsels identified as associated with “Judiciary”, Cassie Fields, Saurabh Sanghvi, and Aaron Stanislawski, whose names and titles appear on an exemplary staff directory of his Senate website: <https://www.coons.senate.gov/contact/staff-directory>. I herewith request that these recipients jointly

take responsibility for ensuring that the e-mail is forwarded to all 22 Committee Senate members – and to their counsels and other staff charged with vetting U.S. Attorney nominations.

This e-mail will be posted on CJA’s website, www.judgewatch.org, on a webpage entitled “President Biden's New U.S. Attorneys for NY -- Will they be non-partisan enforcers of the Rule of Law and Equal Justice when doing so will require them to prosecute NY’s mostly Democratic top state officers – & expose that their U.S. Attorney predecessors politicized and corrupted their own offices?” That is where my above-attached August 4th letter to Senator Hawley and three below e-mails are also posted – and I had wanted to show the webpage to Ms. Mallory, but she declined, stating that when Republican minority counsel called me back or e-mailed, I could furnish it. It is accessible *via* the top panel “Latest News”. The direct link is here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-federal/2021-new-us-attorneys-for-ny.htm>.

Finally, if Senator Hawley has not forwarded my above-attached August 4th letter to former President Trump as I had requested him to do – encompassing, as it does, my [June 4th webpage message to him](#) – I request that the Republican senators of the Committee’s minority do so immediately – and with this e-mail.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 12, 2021 10:41 AM
To: 'eric_teetsel@hawley.senate.gov' <eric_teetsel@hawley.senate.gov>

Subject: URGENT -- STATUS? -- Aug 4, 2021 letter -- Senator Hawley's Leadership Needed: Testing the Fitness of President Biden’s Nomination of Trini Ross to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York

TO: Eric Teetsel/Legislative Director to U.S. Senator Josh Hawley

This follows the voice mail message I left for you (202-224-6154), shortly after 9:00 am today, from which the recording was cut off.

Unbeknownst to me, when I left my yesterday’s voice mail message, shortly after 10:00 am, thereupon sending you the below e-mail – to which I have received no response -- was that President Biden had nominated the other three U.S. Attorneys for New York the day before. Here’s the August 10, 2021 White House press statement: "[President Biden Announces Eight New Nominees to Serve as U.S. Attorneys](#)".

It is imperative that New York’s four U.S. Attorneys impartially discharge their duties – and the test of whether they will do so is my FULLY-DOCUMENTED December 19, 2020 public corruption complaint, which the four acting U.S. Attorneys are each “sitting on” . All four U.S. Attorney nominees must be questioned about how they will be handling the complaint and their conflicts of interest – and whether

the White House questioned them on the subject, as part of its vetting of them. This is especially so with Trini Ross, for all the reasons set forth by my above-attached August 4, 2021 letter – and even more so now that New York Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul will be taking over as governor.

What is the status of Senator Hawley's review of the letter? Will he be taking the lead – or must I reach out to other Senate Judiciary Committee members and the press? And has he forwarded it to former President Trump, as requested?

Please call me.

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 10:16 AM
To: 'eric_teetsel@hawley.senate.gov' <eric_teetsel@hawley.senate.gov>

Subject: STATUS? -- Aug 4, 2021 letter -- Senator Hawley's Leadership Needed: Testing the Fitness of President Biden's Nomination of Trini Ross to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York

TO: Eric Teetsel/Legislative Director to U.S. Senator Josh Hawley

Following the voice mail message I left moment ago, upon calling the Senator's D.C. office (202-224-6154), with no pick-up by a live person, please advise as to how Senator Hawley wishes me to proceed. Will he be taking the lead on this – or must I reach out to other Senate Judiciary Committee members? Also, has Senator Hawley forwarded my letter to former President Trump, as requested.

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 9:02 AM
To: 'eric_teetsel@hawley.senate.gov' <eric_teetsel@hawley.senate.gov>

Subject: Senator Hawley's Leadership Needed: Testing the Fitness of President Biden's Nomination of Trini Ross to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York

TO: Eric Teetsel/Legislative Director to U.S. Senator Josh Hawley

Following up my August 2nd phone conversations with your interns Roy and Mike, attached for your review – and transmittal to Senator Hawley – is my self-explanatory letter to him “Testing the Fitness of President Biden’s Nomination of Trini Ross to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York”. The webpage on which it is posted is here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-federal/2021-new-us-attorneys-for-ny.htm>.

I am available to answer questions and would welcome your call.

Thank you.

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