

April 3, 2025 (updated on April 22, 2025 with additional signatures)

Executive Partner Jeremy London
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
One Manhattan West
New York, NY 10001

Dear Jeremy:

As alumni of Skadden,¹ we write to express our profound disappointment and deep outrage regarding the firm's recent agreement with President Donald Trump. At a time when rule of law, freedom of speech, and the adversarial system collectively face existential threat, Skadden's agreement with President Trump emboldened him to further undermine our democracy. The deals Willkie Farr and Milbank struck with President Trump this week evinces the deeply disturbing behavior that Skadden helped normalize.

We were shocked to hear about Skadden's concessions, concessions given under the threat of an executive order whose substance had already been blocked by a federal court. The firm indoctrinates every Skadden employee who walks through the firm's halls into the legacy of Joe Flom, the firm's most esteemed founding partner. We were told that while other firms scorned hostile takeovers, Joe embraced them and relished his reputation as a maverick, a street fighter. We were told that his name evoked such terror on Wall Street that the firm was frequently paid retainer fees to prevent him from representing potential opponents. For a firm to take such pride in this rebellious tradition, it's embarrassing what Skadden did.

Not only was Joe a formidable adversary in mergers and acquisitions, he was a formidable defender of civil rights and underrepresented communities as well. Having faced discrimination himself, he championed diversity at the firm, being instrumental in hiring the firm's first female associate, and left an indelible mark on the public interest legal profession. In 1988, he founded the Skadden Fellowship Foundation, which since its establishment has provided opportunities for over 1,000 lawyers to advocate for marginalized communities on issues such as immigration and racial justice. During some of our tenure, the firm carried on Joe's philanthropic spirit and established the Immigration Impact Project, which many of us participated in, as an ostensible direct form of resistance against President Trump's "Muslim Ban" in his first term. In light of this history, we find Skadden's capitulation to Trump to be hypocritical, cowardly, and downright shameful.

¹ We speak in our individual capacities only and do not represent the views of our current employers or any third party.

As attorneys, we all took an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States. As one of the country's most powerful and most profitable law firms, Skadden's influence over the legal profession cannot be understated. In light of Skadden's position, it is outrageous and self-interested that rather than fulfilling the legal profession's oath and standing in solidarity with fellow law firms that were fighting to uphold the Constitution, Skadden caved to bullying tactics instead. Not only did Skadden's decision leave a painful stain on Joe's legacy and Skadden's reputation, but your decision also sent the country down an extremely dangerous path. During our tenure, we told clients we'd walk through walls for them. It is incredibly disappointing the firm won't do the same for the Constitution.

As alumni who have proudly represented Skadden in a variety of practice areas, we call on you to clearly affirm the firm's commitment to reject the administration's attacks on the judiciary, the Constitution, and rule of law before it's too late.

Signed,

Barbara Wrubel, Partner (New York), 1981-2010
Robert H. Falk, Partner (New York), 1985-1993
Sheila Birnbaum, Partner (New York), 1979-2013
Avinash Ganatra, Counsel (New York), 1994-2007
Carrie LeRoy, Counsel (Palo Alto), 2007-2015
Patricia Sindel, Counsel (New York, Hong Kong, Sydney), 1994-2001
Alexandra Farmer, Associate (Los Angeles and Palo Alto), 2018-2019
Alex Vargas, Associate (New York), 2019-2025
Alice Thai, Associate (Palo Alto), 2018-2021
Amanda Bradley, Associate (Palo Alto), 2016-2019
Amanda Strauss, Associate (New York), 2013-2021
Amber Will, Associate (New York), 2017-2021
Ayesha Minhaj, Associate (Palo Alto), 2015-2019
Barnaby Gibson, Associate (Palo Alto), 2011-2019
Ben Miller, Staff Attorney (D.C.), 2006-2008
Brenna Frey, Associate (D.C.), 2015-2021, 2024-2025
Cameron Mabrie, Associate (Los Angeles), 2012-2016
Claire Glasspiegel, Associate (New York), 2015-2019
Chris Hooper, Associate (New York), 1998-2004
Claire McCormack, Associate (Palo Alto), 2008-2019
Deborah Guerra, Associate (Los Angeles), 1992-1999
Deepa Vanamali, Associate (New York), 2015-2019
Dewey Bennett, Associate (New York), 2018-2020
Donald Wagda, Associate (Palo Alto), 2007-2010
Edina Lee, Associate (Palo Alto), 2022-2024
Erika Schmidt, Associate (Palo Alto), 2013-2017

Freya K. Bowen, Associate (Los Angeles), 2003-2005
Gene Kim, Associate (Palo Alto), 2021-2023
Grace Grothouse, Associate (Palo Alto), 2015-2022
Howard Edelman, Associate (New York, Sydney, Hong Kong), 1993-2000
Irene Ten Cate, Associate (New York), 2003-2010
Jonathan Edelman, Associate (D.C.), 2021-2023
Kate Merrill, Associate, 1999-2003
Lily Fagin, Associate (New York), 2023-2024
Lily Huang, Associate (New York), 2015-2022
Logan Maley, Associate (Los Angeles), 2012-2014
Mallory Craig-Karim, Associate (Palo Alto), 2018-2020
Maria da Silva, Associate (New York), 2016-2024
Martin de Jong, Associate (Palo Alto), 2016-2023
Medum Choe, Associate (Palo Alto), 2015-2018
Melanie Vinson, Associate (Los Angeles, Paris, Palo Alto), 1993-1999
Melinda Hightower, Associate (D.C. and Palo Alto), 2011-2016
Mona Oh, Associate (New York and Los Angeles), 1997-2003
Nathan Marinoff, Associate (New York), 2000-2004
Peter Marshall, Associate (Los Angeles), 2024
Prue Brady, Associate (New York), 2022-2024
Rachel Cohen, Associate (Chicago), 2022-2025
Rachel Fleig-Goldstein, Associate (New York), 2018-2021
Ramya Ravishankar, Associate (New York), 2014-2020
Rochelle Boas, Associate (New York), 1998-2004
Ryan Feeney, Associate (New York), 2021-2024
Sam Burgess, Associate (Boston), 2021-2023
Sean Turner, Associate (Palo Alto and D.C.), 2018-2021
Susan E. Sidd, Associate (Boston and New York), 1988-1990
Tatum Ji, Associate (New York), 2014-2016
Tatyana Shmygol, Associate (Palo Alto), 2009-2016
Taylor Ball, Associate (New York), 2016-2020
Thania Charmani, Associate (New York), 2015-2022
Thomas Sipp, Associate (New York), 2023-2025
Timothy Perdew, Associate (New York), 2018-2021
Peter Eliasberg, Legal Proofreader (New York), 1986-1990
Alex Reed, HR Manager, West Coast (Los Angeles), 2017-2020
Carmella O'Hanlon, Legal Assistant (New York), 2016-2018
Catherine Mejia, Legal Coordinator (New York), 2016-2020
Cecilia Maldonado, Legal Secretary (Los Angeles), 35 years
Heather Knight, Executive Assistant (D.C.), 2000-2022
Jillian Dahrooge, Legal Assistant (New York), 2016-2018
Sarahelena Martinez-Sosa, Legal Assistant (New York), 2017-2021
Alexandra Tangelos, Attorney Development & Recruiting Coordinator (Los Angeles), 2018-2022

James Hahn, IT Support Analyst (Palo Alto), 2008-2018

The following individuals wish to sign anonymously. They are listed by their terminal title, office and years at the firm:

Partner, New York, 33 years
Partner, New York, 36 years
Partner, London, 8 years
Associate, New York, 2018-2021
Associate, Palo Alto, 2018-2024
Associate, Los Angeles, 2013-2015
Associate, Palo Alto, 2005-2011
Associate, D.C., 2021-2023
Associate, New York, 2017-2023
Associate, New York, 2015-2019
Associate, Chicago, 2022-2024
Associate, Non-U.S. Office, 2018-2025
Associate, New York, 2018-2021
Associate, Palo Alto, 2018-2022
Associate, San Francisco and Los Angeles, 2004-2009
Associate, New York, 2015-2025
Associate, New York, 2016-2019
Associate, Palo Alto, 2006-2010
Associate, New York, 2002-2009
Associate, Anonymous Office, 2019-2025
Associate, New York, 2017-2020
Associate, New York, 2018-2020; 2023-2025
Associate, Chicago, 2023-2025
Associate, New York, 2022-2025
Associate, Palo Alto, 2006-2014
Associate, New York, 2017-2020
Associate, New York, 2015-2021
Associate, Los Angeles, 2016-2021
Associate, New York, 15 years
Associate, Palo Alto, 2018-2021
Associate, Los Angeles, 1994-1995
Associate, New York, 2018-2021
Associate, New York, 2021-2023
Associate, New York, 2008-2011
Associate, Chicago, 2021-2023
Associate, London, 2022-2024
Associate, D.C., 2021-2023

Associate, Palo Alto, 2017-2019

Associate, Anonymous Office, 2021-2024

Associate, Palo Alto, 2018-2019

Legal Assistant, Palo Alto, 3 years

Legal Assistant, New York, Palo Alto, San Francisco, 2007-2010