

April 13, 2026

The Honorable Todd Blanche
Acting Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Acting Attorney General Blanche:

On April 2, 2026, Attorney General Pam Bondi announced she would be leaving her role as Attorney General and “moving to an important private sector role.”¹ As you know, federal regulations require government officials to recuse from certain matters that have “a direct and predictable effect” on a prospective employer’s financial interests, and officials like the Attorney General must file with the appropriate ethics official a notification once negotiations have begun with a prospective employer that is a “non-Federal entity.”² Federal law criminalizes the failure to recuse once negotiations begin with any prospective employer, with certain exceptions (that are required to be public).³

Ms. Bondi’s announcement also said she would be “working tirelessly to transition the office of Attorney General” to you “[o]ver the next month.”⁴ However, at your April 7 press conference, you said you are already Acting Attorney General and declined to provide Ms. Bondi’s exact departure date.⁵ Precise information on these matters is important for understanding the Department’s compliance with federal ethics laws and with statutes governing the temporary filling of this vacancy.

To that end, please provide the following information by April 23, 2026.

1. Please provide a copy of the notification provided by Ms. Bondi to the relevant ethics official pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.607.
2. Please provide copies of any determinations granting to Ms. Bondi an exemption under 18 U.S.C. § 208.

¹ Attorney General Pam Bondi (@AGPamBondi), X.com (Apr. 2, 2026), <https://x.com/AGPamBondi/status/2039780681874841925>.

² 5 C.F.R. §§ 2635.604, 2635.607.

³ 18 U.S.C. § 208.

⁴ Attorney General Pam Bondi, *supra* note 1.

⁵ *Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche Announces Developments in Federal Fraud Cases*, CSPAN (00:10:40-00:11:27) <https://www.c-span.org/program/news-conference/acting-attorney-general-todd-blanche-announces-developments-in-federal-fraud-cases/676945>.

3. On what date did Ms. Bondi's employment at the Department of Justice terminate? If she is still a Department of Justice employee, what is her current title and on what date does she expect to leave the Department?
4. On what date did you officially assume the role of Acting Attorney General?
5. Under what statutory authority are you now serving as Acting Attorney General?
6. What is the "important private sector role" and when was it first discussed and finally agreed to?

Sincerely,



Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member,
Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on
Federal Courts, Oversight,
Agency Action, and
Federal Rights