

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 6, 2019

Mr. Corey Amundson
Director and Chief Counsel
Office of Professional Responsibility
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Director Amundson:

We write to urge you to review the actions taken by Department of Justice (DOJ) attorneys for potential professional misconduct. Specifically, we urge you to review actions by DOJ attorneys in alleged attempts to hide or obscure the contribution of a deeply partisan political operative in the addition of a citizenship question to the 2020 Census.¹

Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure requires attorneys to certify that their signed pleadings containing factual contentions have evidentiary support, and that their denials of factual contentions are warranted on the evidence. However, in seven lawsuits, one of which is before the U.S. Supreme Court, DOJ attorney signed pleadings in which both Commerce and Justice Department defendants misled the court in both the process for the inclusion on the citizenship question, as well as its justification.²

Additional violations of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure may have occurred in the overall effort to defend the administration from these numerous lawsuits. The Office of Professional Responsibility was established after the Watergate scandal to ensure that Justice Department attorneys “perform their duties in accordance with the high professional standards expected of the nation’s principal law enforcement agency.”³ If attorneys involved in these lawsuits engaged in misconduct to defend the administration rather than to uphold the law, it is incumbent upon your office to investigate and administer appropriate disciplinary actions.

This potential misconduct warrants an immediate review by your offices. We appreciate your attention to this matter, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

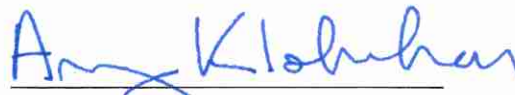
¹ Michael Wines, “Deceased G.O.P. Strategist’s Hard Drives Reveal New Details on the Census Citizenship Question,” *The New York Times*, 30 May 2019, <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/30/us/census-citizenship-question-hofeller.html>.

² “NYIC Plaintiffs’ motion for an order to show cause in State of New York, et al. v. U.S. Dep’t of Commerce, et al., 18-CV-2921 (JMF),” 30 May 2019, <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6077715-May-30-2019-Letter-to-Judge-Jesse-Furman.html>.

³ “Welcome to OPR,” Office of Professional Responsibility, U.S. Department of Justice, <https://www.justice.gov/opr>.



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senate



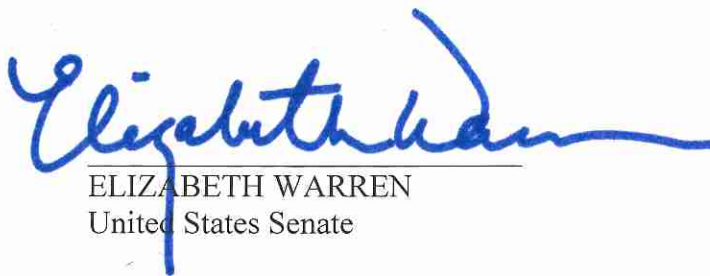
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