

February 8, 2017

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
711 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
G12 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Durbin and Duckworth:

We are the senior lawyers at our law firm. Several of us are registered Republicans, several others are registered Democrats, and several of us are not registered with either major party. We are citizens of three different states. Most importantly, however, we are all believers in the American form of government.

We are appalled by President Trump's latest assault on the Judiciary. His intemperate and contemptuous comments about a "so-called judge" upon whom he intends to cast blame should something bad happen as a result of his ruling on the President's executive order creating a travel ban simply encourage others to disrespect and disregard rulings of the federal Judiciary. It appears to be President Trump's view that, as long as he believes something to be correct, the law and the Constitution do not matter.

This attempt to subvert one of the three pillars of our system that was established for very good reason by the Founders sets a dangerous precedent. Imagine what might happen should the Congress choose to disagree with the President. His treatment of Congress might be no different than that currently being experienced by the Judiciary. The fact is that each branch of our government – Executive, Legislative and Judicial – must receive the utmost respect from the others. That no longer seems to be the case.

We urge you to see to it that the Executive branch does not overstep its bounds and is required to treat the other branches of our government with the respect that they must have from all of our elected and appointed officials. Please do not allow this President to abrogate our constitutional system of checks and balances by creating an Executive branch that is not answerable to the other branches, contrary to the intent of the Framers of our Constitution. Above all, we urge you do what is necessary to protect our form of government. It is no time for our legislators to stay silent.



Allyn Z. Lite



Bruce D. Greenberg



Katrina Carroll



Mindee J. Reuben



Jeremy Nash

Respectfully,



Joseph J. DePalma



Victor A. Afanador



Susana Cruz Hodge



Steven J. Greenfogel