

February 5, 2026

Office of Disciplinary Counsel  
District of Columbia Court of Appeals  
515 5th Street NW  
Building A, Suite 117  
Washington, D.C. 20001

CC: Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, Supreme Court of Missouri

**Re: Edward R. Martin, Jr., outgoing Department of Justice appointee**

Dear Disciplinary Counsel:

We write to ask you to investigate the latest allegations of misconduct against Edward R. Martin, Jr.—the disgraced outgoing director of the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) "Weaponization Working Group" whose attacks on First Amendment freedoms sparked widespread outrage—and then to take appropriate action, up to and including disbarment. As a member of the D.C. Bar (No. 481866), Martin is subject to the Rules of Professional Conduct ("DC RPC") enforced by your office.

The new allegations against Martin are outlined in a news article published by CNN on February 4, 2026,<sup>1</sup> which reports that Martin may have misled DOJ investigators about his role in a separate internal probe (emphasis added):

The review, which was overseen by Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche's office, focused on whether grand jury material gathered in the department's mortgage fraud inquiries into Democratic Sen. Adam Schiff and New York Attorney General Letitia James had been illegally shared with people not authorized to possess that information, multiple people briefed on the matter told CNN.

The department found that Martin had shared the secret grand jury material in the Schiff case, one of the sources said. **The person said Martin initially denied sharing the material with unauthorized people when asked by department leaders, but emails soon surfaced showing that Martin had in fact shared the grand jury material.**

Despite the news reporting on the DOJ's own conclusions, Martin appears to be denying the allegations of dishonesty by insulting the reporting news outlet. Today, he posted on X, formerly Twitter, the following: "CNN = FakeNews Never forget. And anyone telling you to read/believe CNN hates you."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Hannah Rabinowitz, Evan Perez, and Paula Reid, *Justice Department review found Trump ally Ed Martin improperly leaked grand jury material in probe of president's foes*, CNN (Feb. 4, 2026), <https://www.cnn.com/2026/02/04/politics/ed-martin-review-improperly-handled-grand-jury>.

<sup>2</sup> Ed Martin (@EagleEdMartin), X (Feb. 5, 2026), <https://x.com/EagleEdMartin/status/2019360935031501313>.

However, these allegations are very serious, credibly reported, and deserving of the Office of Disciplinary Counsel's attention regardless of Martin's self-interested desire for the authorities to ignore them. If the allegations are true, Martin's conduct likely violated numerous rules of professional conduct for attorneys, including the following:

- **DC RPC 3.3.** This Rule prohibits a lawyer from knowingly making a false statement of fact or law to a tribunal.
- **DC RPC 4.1(a).** This Rule prohibits a lawyer from knowingly making a false statement of material fact or law to a third person.
- **DC RPC 8.4(c).** This Rule prohibits a lawyer from engaging in "conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation."
- **DC RPC 3.5(d).** This Rule prohibits a lawyer from engaging in conduct intended to disrupt any proceeding of a tribunal.
- **DC RPC 8.4(d).** This Rule prohibits a lawyer from engaging in conduct that seriously interferes with the administration of justice.
- **DC RPC 8.4(a).** This Rule states that it is professional misconduct for a lawyer to violate or attempt to violate the Rules of Professional Conduct, knowingly assist or induce another to do so, or do so through the acts of another.

As you know, we have previously written to you in order to sound the alarm about Martin's pattern of serious ethical lapses and other professional misconduct as the Interim U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia—particularly his threats against the First Amendment freedoms of the press and the public.<sup>3</sup> The troubling new reporting, which alleges that Martin has now been politically weaponizing his role as the Administration's so-called "weaponization czar" and engaging in dishonesty about it, strongly suggests that he is, without any remorse or hesitation, continuing to engage in professional misconduct that reflects adversely on his character and fitness to be a licensed attorney. The broader stakes for the integrity of our legal system and the fair, honest, and impartial administration of justice—the processes by which the government enforces our laws and ensures that the legal system functions fairly and efficiently—are even graver.

Given these considerations and the allegations against Martin, we respectfully ask you to investigate his conduct as expeditiously as possible and to initiate the appropriate disciplinary proceedings, up to and including disbarment. For the sake of the integrity and public credibility of the legal profession, Martin must be held accountable. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Demand Progress Education Fund

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<sup>3</sup> Demand Progress, *Rights Organizations File Comprehensive Ethics Complaint Against Ed Martin* (May 8, 2025), <https://demandprogress.org/rights-organizations-file-comprehensive-ethics-complaint-against-ed-martin/>.