



Ralph A. Weber
State Committee Chair
weber@gwmlaw.com

January 4, 2021

Honorable Patience D. Roggensack
Chief Justice
The Wisconsin Supreme Court
16 East Capitol
Madison, WI 53701

Dear Chief Justice Roggensack:

On behalf of the State Committee of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American College of Trial Lawyers, we join you in condemning the threats and attacks made against certain members of the Wisconsin Supreme Court because of the Court's decision in *Trump v. Biden*. The Mission Statement of the American College of Trial Lawyers strongly supports the independence of the judiciary and respect for the rule of law. I write to underscore the importance of those principles.

A central pillar of our democracy is an independent judiciary. Judges must decide cases with faithfulness to the law, without fear or favor, and free from the influence of political storms or other external pressure. While in times of political upheaval court decisions may incite a strong reaction, the line of respectful dissent must never be crossed. Everyone has a right to disagree with a decision, but threats to do violence to judges and their families, and attacks based on religion, ethnicity, race, or gender put the judicial system and thus our democracy at risk.

We call upon all lawyers and their professional organizations not only to work to preserve a sound, fair and impartial court system, but also to prevent assaults on judicial independence. The professional obligations of lawyers to our system of justice and to those who serve on the bench demand no less of us.

Sincerely,

Ralph A. Weber
Chair, State Committee

cc: Rodney Acker, ACTL President
General Distribution

About the American College of Trial Lawyers

The American College of Trial Lawyers is composed of preeminent members of the trial bar from the United States and Canada and is recognized as the leading trial lawyer's organization in both countries. Founded in 1950, the College is an invitation only fellowship. The College thoroughly investigates each nominee for admission and selects only those who have demonstrated the very highest standards of trial advocacy, ethical conduct, integrity, professionalism, and collegiality. The College is dedicated to maintaining and seeking to improve the standards of trial practice, professionalism, ethics, and the administration of justice through education and public statements on important legal issues relating to its mission. The College strongly supports the independence of the judiciary, trial by jury, respect for the rule of law, access to justice, and fair and just representation of all parties to legal proceedings.

REPLY TO:
Gass Weber Mullins LLC
241 N Broadway, Suite 300
Milwaukee, WI 53202-5819
T: (414) 224-7698

NATIONAL OFFICE
1300 Dove St.
Suite 150
Newport Beach, CA 92660
t: 949.752.1801
f: 949.752.1674
www.actl.com