



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF TRIAL LAWYERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ACTL Statement on Incident at Office of Acting U.S. Attorney in New Jersey

NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA (November 14, 2025) — The American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL) is alarmed by reports of a man bringing a baseball bat to the Newark office of the acting U.S. attorney in New Jersey, Alina Habba. The same suspect later ransacked Ms. Habba's office and is now being sought by authorities.

For over 75 years, the College has counted among its core tenets our responsibility to support and strengthen the independence of America's judicial system. There is no threat to that constitutional principle more insidious than the specter of violence.

Although the details surrounding this particular incident have not been fully revealed, ACTL maintains that violence directed towards members of the judicial system have no place in our society and should be universally condemned.

Such actions undermine the public's trust in the rule of law, risk provoking further violence against judges and other members of the judicial system and threaten the independence of the judiciary because of their intimidating nature.

Acknowledging that decisions from courts and those involved in the judicial system like Ms. Haba may incite strong reactions, the College will continue to champion the right to engage in political speech, to disagree with judicial rulings, and to challenge those judgments for their conclusions, soundness, and potential consequences.

But all of us, regardless of political orientation, should recognize that respect for the judicial system and the safety of its participants remain essential to protecting our democracy and the rule of law. The College extends its sympathies to Ms. Habba and her colleagues in Newark, and we hope for a swift and just resolution to this matter.

About The American College of Trial Lawyers

The American College of Trial Lawyers comprises the best of the trial bar from the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico and is widely considered to be the premier professional trial organization in North America. Founded in 1950, the College is an invitation only fellowship. The College thoroughly investigates each nominee for admission and selects only those who



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF TRIAL LAWYERS

have demonstrated the very highest standards of trial advocacy, ethical conduct, integrity, professionalism and collegiality. The College maintains and seeks 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.

CONTACT:

Sarah Stokes

American College of Trial Lawyers, Senior Communications Manager

949-752-1801

sstokes@actl.com

###