



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF TRIAL LAWYERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

American College of Trial Lawyers Condemns Personal Attacks on Supreme Court Justices by President Trump

NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA (February 21, 2026) – An independent judiciary is fundamental to a democratic society governed by the Rule of Law. The American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL) condemns the recent statements by President Donald Trump attacking the six Supreme Court Justices who ruled that the Trump Administration’s use of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) to impose tariffs was unconstitutional. (*Learning Resources, Inc., et al. v. Trump*).

Any citizen, including the President, has the right to express disagreement over the conclusion of a Supreme Court ruling. Disagreements between the Executive Branch and the Judicial Branch are not uncommon, and many past Presidents have criticized a particular decision of the Supreme Court in harsh terms.

But that is a far cry from a President *personally* attacking the members of the Court by demeaning them in public and accusing them of violating the Constitution at the behest of foreign actors – an impeachable and criminal offense.

President Trump’s comments fall far outside the bounds of acceptable conduct. Within hours of the ruling, President Trump noted that he was “ashamed of certain members of the court, absolutely ashamed, for not having the courage to do what’s right for our country.” He accused the majority of being “swayed by foreign interests,” and claimed that foreign countries were “dancing in the streets” because of the decision. When asked by a reporter if he had any evidence to support his claim of foreign influence, he cited none but noted: “you’re going to find out.”

By personalizing and politicizing his criticism of the Court the President threatens both the Rule of Law and judicial independence. Such rhetoric erodes public confidence in the judiciary; if citizens are led to believe that Supreme Court Justices are corrupt or disregard the Constitution, faith in our system of justice cannot endure. These public attacks are also inherently intimidating, signaling that decisions viewed as disloyal will bring public shaming and may threaten a judge’s personal safety. Expecting judges to withstand such pressure demands extraordinary moral courage. Our judicial system should not be subjected to this kind of test – least of all by a President of the United States.



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This is not a partisan issue. All of us, but especially our leaders, should respect the Supreme Court and the rest of our judiciary and understand the essential role they serve in our democracy. Such unsupported personal attacks by the President have no place in our system of justice.

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 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.

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