

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

December 11, 2025

The Honorable Pamela Bondi
Attorney General
Department of Justice

Dear Attorney General Bondi:

Recent reports and unsealed court documents have raised concerns about potential judicial misconduct relating to the treatment of Jim Troupis, a former Dane County, Wisconsin Circuit Court judge who faces criminal charges in the state. Mr. Troupis represented President Donald Trump in Wisconsin in the 2020 election and, because of his role as the president's attorney, his life has been upended by unceasing political persecutions currently led by Wisconsin's attorney general. Mr. Troupis, who received a presidential pardon in November, faces 11 felony charges in Wisconsin relating to his "efforts to file a slate of alternate—or contingent—electors to protect Trump's electoral votes while the president contested the results of the 2020 election."¹ Mr. Troupis fittingly described this anti-Trump lawfare as "the Jack Smith case being tried in Wisconsin and President Trump is going to be tried in absentia."²

In a recently unsealed motion, Mr. Troupis' attorney, Joseph Bugni, identified even more potential evidence underscoring the blatant political bias against his client. Following Dane County Circuit Court Judge John Hyland's August 22, 2025 order denying Mr. Troupis' motions to dismiss, Mr. Troupis' legal team immediately questioned whether Judge Hyland authored the Court order. In a letter to the Court dated November 25, 2025, Mr. Bugni wrote, "The first and most emphatic reaction [to the order] was (and I'm paraphrasing): 'Judge Hyland did not write this. I have read his writing for decades, and most of this isn't his.'"³ Mr. Bugni came to believe that retired Dane County Circuit Court Judge Frank Remington was the true author of the order.⁴ According to, Mr. Bugni:

¹ Granting Pardons for Certain Offenses Related to the 2020 Presidential Election, 90 Fed. Reg. 51071 (Nov. 14, 2025); *Wisconsin judge refuses former Trump attorney's request to step aside*, CBS News (Dec. 10, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/wisconsin-judge-refuses-former-trump-attorney-request-step-aside/>; M.D. Kittle, *Documents: Wisconsin Judge In Trump Electors Case Didn't Write His Own Ruling*, The Federalist (Dec. 10, 2025), <https://thefederalist.com/2025/12/10/documents-wisconsin-judge-in-trump-electors-case-didnt-write-his-own-ruling/>.

² Jim Troupis, remark on *Lawfare WI: Josh Kaul plans to put Trump on trial in WI ahead of the midterms with Judge Jim Troupis*, Vicki McKenna Show (Nov. 21, 2025), <https://podscan.fm/podcasts/the-vicki-mckenna-show/episodes/vicki-mckenna-show-lawfare-wi-josh-kaul-plans-to-put-trump-on-trial-in-wi-ahead-of-the-midterms-with-judge-jim-troupis> at 6:17-6:26 (accessed Dec. 11, 2025).

³ Letter from Joseph Bugni to Judge John Hyland (Nov. 25, 2025) (attached to motion seeking to disqualify Judge Hyland and the entire Dane County bench in *State of Wisconsin v. Troupis*, 2024CF001295, Dane Cnty. Cir. Ct.).

⁴ *Id.*

Judge Remington was (to put it mildly) not a fan of my client when they were in practice or when they were colleagues on the bench. Moreover, Judge Remington retired from the bench on May 3, before the motions were ripe—we filed our reply on May 12.⁵

According to the unsealed motion to disqualify Judge Hyland and the Dane County Judiciary, Mr. Troupis' legal team consulted with a forensic linguistics expert from Georgetown University who reportedly analyzed the order as well as documents previously written by Judge Hyland and Judge Remington. In the report provided to the Court, the expert concluded "it highly likely from a linguistic perspective, that the [August 22 Court order] was written by Judge Remington, despite the fact that it is signed by Judge Hyland."⁶ Given this finding, Mr. Bugni asserted, "it is improper for a private citizen, even one who is a former judge, to have a role in deciding a case. . . . [O]ld grudges appear to have usurped my client's rights and have threatened to derail the promise of impartial justice."⁷ Mr. Bugni concluded, "the only way to ensure the appearance of impropriety does not haunt the rest of this case is for it to [be] heard by a judge from a county where Troupis did not serve as a judge."⁸

On December 9, 2025, Judge Hyland denied the request to move the case to another county. He wrote, "The Court is satisfied that no person other the assigned staff attorney and I had a hand in drafting or editing the decision which this Court signed and entered."⁹ Judge Hyland added, "The Court finds no grounds to disqualify or recuse itself."¹⁰

It is difficult to understand how Judge Hyland can make an impartial decision about Mr. Bugni's allegations when he is directly implicated. Therefore, I respectfully request that the Department of Justice review Mr. Troupis' case to determine whether any wrongdoing has occurred.

Sincerely,



Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Expert Report of Natalie Schilling, Ph.D., *State v. Troupis*, No. 2024CF001295 (Dane Cnty. Cir. Ct.) (Nov. 21, 2025) at 31.

⁷ Letter from Joseph Bugni to Judge John Hyland, (Nov. 25, 2025) (attached to motion seeking to disqualify Judge Hyland and the entire Dane County bench in *State v. Troupis*, 2024CF001295, Dane Cnty. Cir. Ct.).

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Scott Bauer, *Dane County judge refuses to step aside as requested by former Trump attorney*, Associated Press (Dec. 9, 2025), <https://pbswisconsin.org/news-item/dane-county-judge-refuses-to-step-aside-as-requested-by-former-trump-attorney/>; Decision and Order Regarding Motions, *State v. Troupis*, 2024CF001295, Doc. 63, (Dane Cnty. Cir. Ct. Dec. Dec. 9, 2025) at 2.

¹⁰ Decision and Order Regarding Motions, *State v. Troupis*, 2024CF001295, Doc. 63, (Dane Cnty. Cir. Ct. Dec. Dec. 9, 2025) at 2.

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cc: The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
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