



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

CLARE E. CONNORS
ATTORNEY GENERAL

For Immediate Release
March 4, 2020

News Release 2020-26

Hawaii Attorney General Opposes President's Efforts to Impede Investigation

HONOLULU – Hawaii Attorney General Clare E. Connors has joined Virginia Attorney General Mark R. Herring and a coalition of 16 attorneys general in fighting to ensure that President Trump cannot impede criminal investigations and hide evidence of potential crimes. Attorney General Connors has joined the coalition in filing an amicus brief at the U.S. Supreme Court in *Trump v. Vance* making clear that President Trump cannot block a valid grand jury subpoena sent to his accounting firm that seeks financial records as part of an ongoing investigation by the District Attorney of New York.

“States have a legitimate interest in addressing criminal activity within their borders,” said Attorney General Connors. “There is no legally viable argument that states are barred from conducting criminal investigations because of an assertion of absolute presidential immunity.”

In the brief, the coalition argues that President Trump is not above the law and says that “[the Supreme Court] has repeatedly held that the President is not immune from judicial process.” The brief adds that the Supreme Court has “already rejected nearly all of the arguments the President and the DOJ urge in favor of immunity.”

The coalition also highlights that President Trump makes the baseless and ridiculous argument that upholding the Second Circuit’s decision would allow state and local prosecutors to pursue criminal actions against the president purely based on political motivations. The coalition’s brief says “unable to offer a previous example of the kind of harassing prosecution he claims will be ubiquitous, the President’s brief relies on conjecture and the paradoxical assertion that the fact that this case is the first of its kind proves that presidential immunity has long been accepted.”

The coalition also points out that the grand jury subpoena that is at issue in the lawsuit “seeks information about events predating the President’s time in office, when he was a private citizen and a resident of New York.” Additionally, the subpoena was directed to a

corporation that is associated with the President and does not actually “purport to compel the President to do anything at all.”

Attorney General Connors joins Virginia Attorney General Herring and the attorneys general of California, Connecticut, D.C., Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington in filing today’s brief.

#

For more information, contact:

Krishna F. Jayaram
Special Assistant to the Attorney General
(808) 586-1284
Email: atg.pio@hawaii.gov
Web: <http://ag.hawaii.gov>
Twitter: @ATGHlgov