

RULE OF LAW

Rule of Law These three simple words are the bedrock principle for all civilized societies. They are the redline that separates Dictatorship from Democracy, Hitler's Third Reich from President Lincoln's government "*of the people, by the people, and for the people.*"

The English philosopher John Locke warned that "*where-ever Law ends, tyranny begins.*"

Our nation was born in Revolution. Our founders, listing "injuries and usurpation" by an oppressive monarch, revolted, threw off the chains of tyranny, and created these United States. Their hopes were set forth in America's founding documents - the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. Guided by the spirit and principles laid down in the Declaration, they adopted the Constitution which recognized that power came from the consent of the people - "*We, the people of the United States.*" They designed a government with three co-equal branches so no one-person could seize absolute power. To protect the people from abuses, a Bill of Rights was soon adopted.

The Rule of Law is a fundamental American value that protects and guarantees our cherished freedoms and liberty. It means that no person is above the law, that government officials cannot act in arbitrary or capricious ways to punish or imprison their enemies, that laws are just, equally enforced and adjudicated by independent courts. The Rule of Law promotes trust in our society and institutions, and fosters a strong economy and respect for fundamental rights. It is the basis for our vibrant and

productive communities. But these documents and principles are not self-enforcing. It's up to all of us to be vigilant and reaffirm these principles.

Today, our nation and the Rule of Law face another test. There is an assault going on now, a severe and unprecedented assault on the Rule of Law, on truth, on facts, on freedoms from unjust imprisonment, on human dignity, on justice and on democracy itself.

George Washington once wrote that *"laws made by common consent must not be trampled on by individuals."*

Today, we have dangerously strayed from the Rule of Law. Outrageous conduct by this President include:

1. Presidential pardons, without just cause, for thousands of rioters who initiated a failed insurrection against our nation on January 6, 2021, have cultivated a culture of fear and endorsement of criminal acts.
2. Threats by the President to arrest a state governor and mayors who refuse to cooperate with federal actions they believe are unwarranted and violate due process of law.
3. Mass arrests for "being brown" have dehumanized and terrorized citizens with threats of detention or deportation without due process of law.
4. Demanding compliance from universities and schools with specific demands on what must be taught in these institutions of learning.
5. Firing thousands of government workers without just cause or due process has created chaos.

6. Ignoring our privacy rights by giving access, to unknown individuals, to the personal records of thousands of American citizens.

In his book Mein Kampf, Adolf Hitler wrote, “*The one means that wins the easiest victory over reason: terror and force.*”

Today we face a crisis where liberty and justice and our fundamental values are threatened. Generations before us stepped up, fought, and even died to defend the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Rule of Law - the foundation of our nation. Will we?

What can any of us do? Talk to friends and family about these threats. Join organizations who are leading the fight. Help elect candidates who support the Rule of Law. The threat is real. Stand up; speak out. IMUA!

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Former Governor.

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