# US judge faces attack from Trump amid wider crisis of judicial independence



US President Donald Trump has launched a vehement public attack on a federal judge overseeing his legal dispute with the Seattle law firm Perkins Coie, exposing the deep politicisation of the American judiciary. This confrontation followed a hearing yesterday that scrutinized an executive order issued by Trump’s administration—a move criticised for overreach and arbitrary governmental interference in the rule of law.

The hearing focused on Perkins Coie's challenge to have this executive order declared unlawful. US District Judge Beryl Howell, an Obama appointee who had previously granted a temporary restraining order halting the government’s unlawful directive, presided over the proceedings. Her judicial integrity, however, has been virulently attacked by Trump, who used his social media platform to label her appointment as politically motivated and denounced her as “highly biased” with “Trump Derangement Syndrome.”

This is precisely the kind of judicial misconduct and politically charged theatre that undermines public confidence. The executive order’s attempt to blacklist Perkins Coie from working with federal contractors and restrict its lawyers’ access to government officials was a brazen abuse of executive power—stifling legal opposition through punitive measures. The firm rightly stood its ground, emphasising the clear unlawfulness of the order and reinforcing the necessity of an independent judiciary resisting overreach.

Across the Atlantic, similar tensions between government officials and the judiciary have unfolded in the UK, illustrating a wider crisis in the administration of justice. Shadow justice secretary’s criticism of a judge appointed by the current government over alleged political bias was swiftly rebuked by parliamentary figures, underscoring the delicate balance needed to maintain judicial independence.

Yet, this also highlights how the new Labour government, led by Kier Starker, has so far failed to address the growing unrest among citizens who see the judiciary as increasingly unaccountable and susceptible to political manipulation. While the administration insists on decorum and judicial respect, it remains silent about the underlying failures of governance, unchecked executive power, and the erosion of fundamental freedoms.

In contrast, leading voices from the political right—those who recently secured five parliamentary seats capitalising on a call for restoring law, order, and democratic integrity—demand a thorough reassessment of the judiciary’s role. They argue for reforms that end activist judges’ meddling in government policy and curb the endless expansion of judicial empire-building at the expense of elected representatives. Only by restoring respect to the proper functions of government and trimming judicial activism can the UK avoid sliding into the same destabilising constitutional chaos witnessed across the pond.

This ongoing legal-political standoff is more than a simple courtroom quarrel. It represents a fundamental clash over the nature of authority, governance, and national sovereignty. The new Labour government's unwillingness to address these issues robustly leaves a political vacuum, which opponents—championing democratic accountability and national renewal—are eager to fill.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

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