

JUDGE COLLEEN KOLLAR-KOTELLY DEMANDS SOMEONE AT DOJ PUT ETHICAL SKIN IN THE GAME

Around mid-day (maybe my time? maybe yours?), everything went wrong in the Dan Richman docket, in his bid to stop DOJ from violating his Fourth Amendment rights in their bid to indict Jim Comey.

The Clerk alerted the filers of four of the last filings they had fucked up.

NOTICE OF ERROR regarding 15 Reply to opposition to Motion. The following error(s) need correction: DO NOT REFILE. Counsel is reminded that log in and password should match signature page. (zjm)

NOTICE OF ERROR regarding 13 Memorandum in Opposition, 12 MOTION for Order to Dissolve Temporary Restraining Order. The following error(s) need correction: Invalid attorney signature- signature on document must match PACER login. Please refile as an Errata. (zjm)

NOTICE OF ERROR regarding 9 MOTION for Temporary Restraining Order . The following error(s) need correction: DO NOT REFILE. Counsel is reminded that log in and password should match signature page. (zjm)

Richman's attorneys – lawyers from NY who filed docket # 9 and 15 – had filed a document signed by the people who posted it under someone else's PACER login. The Clerk reminded Richman's lawyers the person who actually signs into PACER to file something must have signed the document.

The other error was potentially more serious. DOJ's two filings, 12 and 13, which were DOJ's identical bid to lift the restraining order on accessing Richman's data and opposing Richman's motion for a TR0, noticed a different error. Best as I can explain it, the guy who filed this stuff, John Bailey, is not on the filings at all.

Not scintillating, perhaps. But nevertheless a testament to the fact that this docket, with its NY lawyers for Richman and a mix of shady lawyers for DOJ, were not doing what the clerk's office checks to make sure the people actually making court filings have ethical skin in the game.

This came after another apparent problem in the docket. By all appearances, Pam Bondi had blown off Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly's order that someone at DOJ confirm they were following her order that the entire government will stay out of Dan Richman's stuff until Friday.

The Attorney General of the United States or her designee is further ORDERED to certify that the United States is in compliance with this Order no later than 12:00 p.m. ET on Monday, December 8, 2025.

It turns out DOJ's failure to file anything on the docket was just another problem with the docket.

After both DOJ and Richman filed their filings yesterday (which I wrote about here) and after neither responded to Judge KK's order that if they want to discuss these files, they may need to do a filter protocol, Judge KK weighed in again.

She noticed the same thing I did!! None of the people making these claims wanted to put their own ethical skin in the game. This is, significantly, what she seemed to be looking for when she made sure Richman got someone to file a notice of appearance.

Today's order reveals what happened with her order to file a notice of compliance by Monday: They emailed it, two minutes before her deadline (but fucked up Lindsey the Insurance Lawyer's filing ... and anything else would frankly shock me at this point, because this has happened with pretty much everything filed under her name since she first showed up for Trump).

In response to this Court's [10] Order dated December 6, 2025, Attorney Robert K. McBride sent an email to this Court's Chambers at approximately 11 :58 a.m. ET on December 8, 2025, attaching a document certifying the Government's compliance with the Court's [10] Order,

along with proposed Notices of Appearance for himself and Attorneys Todd W. Blanche and Lindsey Halligan. 1

1 The document that the Court is construing as a proposed Notice of Appearance for Attorney Halligan was attached with the filename "NOA Halligan," but the substance of the document appeared to be a Notice of Appearance for Attorney Blanche. Another document attached to Attorney McBride's email, entitled "NOA Blanche" was identical to this document except that it omitted Attorney Blanche's Bar number.

She then laid out the two problems I did here.

"[P]roviding documents by email is not a substitute for filing them on the docket."

"Attorney Bailey's electronic signature does not appear in the body of the Government's [12] Response and Motion—only the electronic signatures of Attorneys Blanche, Halligan, and McBride appear—and Attorney Bailey has not filed a notice of appearance."

And then she laid out the problem with it – the reason I've been watching it closely this week.

To ensure that counsel who are accountable for the Government's representations and legal positions in this matter are accurately identified in the official record of this case, it is ORDERED that all counsel of record for the Government shall file notices of appearance no later than 10:00 a.m. ET tomorrow, December 11, 2025.

She needs someone to hold accountable. She needs ethical skin in the game.

And then she ordered someone to file a certification of compliance on the docket, like she originally expected, by tomorrow morning.

It is further ORDERED that, no later than the same deadline, 10:00 a.m. ET tomorrow, December 11, 2025, the Government shall file on the docket its certification of compliance with this Court's [10] Order dated December 6, 2025.

Who knows what happens next?!?!

What I do know is Todd Blanche and his buddies are awfully squirmy about what they're doing. And I'm not the only one who noticed.

Update: Here are two other dockets in which Todd Blanche played a key role:

- In LaMonica McIver, in which he is witness, substitute US Attorney, and the guy who bypassed PIN, only the AUSAs appear.
- In Jeffrey Epstein (and Ghislaine Maxwell), in which Blanche was the only signer of the original motion to unseal and in the district where he worked as an AUSA, he did file a notice of appearance, before others filed after him. Of course he got admitted in DC via representing Trump.

Update: Welp. DOJ failed. Robert McBride and Lindsey Halligan filed notices of appearance (albeit in each other's names). Todd Blanche did not.

But they did not, as Judge Kollar-Kotelly ordered them to do, filed their certification of compliance to the docket.