

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 15, 2022

The Honorable Merrick Garland  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Michael Horowitz  
Inspector General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland and Inspector General Horowitz,

It has come to our attention that Stanford University law professor Pamela Karlan quietly left the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) earlier this month, following criticism that she was engaged in an “unethical” arrangement in which she continued to earn nearly \$1 million a year from Stanford while working as a government official.<sup>1</sup> We are deeply concerned about the circumstances surrounding her hiring and subsequent departure.

As you know, Karlan joined the Department of Justice in February 2021 and served for over a year as Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division, in which she exercised broad supervisory and policy-making authority over the Division’s central activities.<sup>2</sup> However, we’ve recently learned that while Karlan was set to serve until at least the end of next month, she quietly stepped down two months early.<sup>3</sup> Coincidentally, this was one business day before the Department delivered documents to the American Accountability Foundation pursuant to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request concerning her unusual pay provisions.<sup>4</sup>

While we understand Karlan was employed at the Department as part of the Intergovernmental Personnel Act agreement that allowed her to be on “temporary detail” at the Department of Justice,<sup>5</sup> we find this lack of transparency by the Biden administration to be unethical and unacceptable. This is especially true with Karlan’s extensive history as an outspoken political attorney and former board positions with at least two far-left advocacy groups that receive significant funding from George Soros and other radical liberal donors attempting to influence the American election system.<sup>6</sup> In fact, we understand that Karlan worked closely on the DOJ lawsuit against an Arizona law that requires proof of citizenship to vote in some federal elections.<sup>7</sup> The American people deserve to know who is truly behind the DOJ’s actions.

Therefore, we ask that you respond to the following questions by July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://nypost.com/2022/07/12/pamela-karlan-quietly-leaves-doj-amid-attacks-on-unethical-1m-salary/>

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> <https://nypost.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/07/karlan-IPA.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.pamelakarlan.com/post/karlan-served-on-the-boards-of-two-soros-funded-progressive-groups>

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* at 1.

1. Why did Karlan enter into an Intergovernmental Personnel Act agreement, instead of receiving the Senior Executive Service (SES) government salary given to those at the top levels of the federal government?
2. Why did the Department of Justice transfer Stanford University \$183,100 per year in lieu of paying Karlan directly?<sup>8</sup>
3. Did Karlan or her staff meet with or have any communication with Stanford University's high-dollar donors and other benefactors, such as George Soros, during her time at the DOJ?
4. Did Karlan or her staff meet with or have any communication with anyone from the American Constitution Society or the Campaign Legal Center advocacy groups, where she previously served as a board member, during her time at the DOJ?
5. What was Karlan's involvement in the DOJ's lawsuit against Arizona's election law during her time at the DOJ and following her departure? Was she brought to the DOJ in anticipation of this litigation?
6. Did Karlan have a security clearance? If not, how as a civilian law professor was she able to access privileged documents?

Karlan continued to earn one of the most lucrative U.S. teaching salaries from a private institution all while directing our nation's federal policy, including election integrity laws and gender policies involving our most innocent youth. As Members of Congress, we believe it is critical to ensure transparency in the Executive Branch by bringing the circumstances involving Karlan's time at the Department of Justice to light.

We await your prompt response on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Troy E. Nehls  
Member of Congress



Scott Perry  
Member of Congress

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<sup>8</sup> *Id.* at 1.



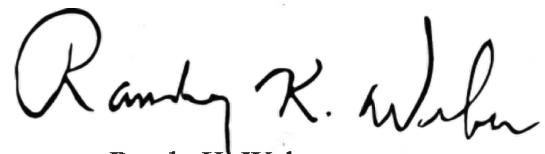
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Member of Congress



Lauren Boebert  
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