

July 15, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Mr. M. Sean O'Neill
Assistant Inspector General Performing the Duties of the Inspector General
U.S. Department of Justice
Office of the Inspector General
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Assistant Inspector General O'Neill:

Recent reporting indicates the office of then-Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche may have intervened to kill an investigation into improper payments related to President Trump's commutation of the sentence of David Gentile, less than two weeks into his seven-year sentence for his role in a \$1.6 billion scheme that defrauded thousands of everyday investors.¹ Sen. Blumenthal wrote to Acting Attorney General Blanche on June 29 to request information regarding the circumstances surrounding the commutation of Mr. Gentile's sentence and the subsequent closure of the Eastern District of New York's investigation into potential misconduct regarding that commutation.² This followed up on a December 2025 letter we sent to President Trump demanding information about his decision to commute Mr. Gentile's sentence.³ Both letters have gone unanswered. At his July 15 confirmation hearing, Sen. Blumenthal again called for answers from Acting Attorney General Blanche, and he again refused to meaningfully respond. We are therefore writing to request that your office open an investigation into the closure of the Eastern District of New York's investigation into the circumstances surrounding the commutation of David Gentile's sentence.

On November 26, President Trump commuted Mr. Gentile's sentence after he had served just twelve days. In that short time in prison, Mr. Gentile reportedly told other inmates that he had made payments of \$2.5 million or more to facilitate a commutation.⁴ One of the reported recipients of a payment from Mr. Gentile, Reverend Frank Mann, appears to have leveraged his relationship with and access to President Trump to lobby for clemency for Mr. Gentile.

¹ Kenneth P. Vogel, Nicole Hong and William K. Rashbaum, *Trump Administration Shuttered a Criminal Probe Into Fraudster's Clemency*, N.Y. TIMES (June 21, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/06/21/us/politics/trump-fraudster-priest-investigation-brooklyn.html>.

² Sen. Richard Blumenthal to Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche, June 29, 2026, *available at* <https://www.blumenthal.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/blumenthal-demands-documents-from-doj-and-participants-in-potential-corrupt-clemency-scheme>.

³ Sen. Ruben Gallego et al. to President Donald Trump, Dec. 12, 2025, *available at* <https://www.gallego.senate.gov/news/press-releases/gallego-leads-colleagues-in-demanding-answers-over-trumps-pardon-of-convicted-fraudster-david-gentile/>.

⁴ Vogel et al., *supra* note 1.

The circumstances surrounding the commutation of Mr. Gentile's sentence were sufficiently suspicious that federal prosecutors in the Eastern District of New York opened an investigation, reportedly focused on improper payments made to secure the commutation that may have exceeded \$2.5 million.⁵ That investigation was reportedly closed after a senior DOJ official, Associate Deputy Attorney General Aakash Singh, expressed concern regarding the investigation to U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York Joseph Nocella Jr.⁶

By commuting Mr. Gentile's sentence, President Trump deprived Gentile's victims of over \$15.5 million in restitution and ensured he served only twelve days of his seven-year sentence⁷ — one of the most extreme examples of how the President's disregard for the safeguards that historically govern the pardon process has resulted in great harm to victims, through both the loss of financial restitution and the extraordinary disrespect of seeing the president champion unrepentant criminals.

In light of Acting Attorney General Blanche's refusal to answer questions on the matter, and the great importance of the fair and impartial administration of justice, we request that the Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General investigate the decision to close the Eastern District of New York's investigation into the circumstances sounding the commutation of David Gentile's sentence. We appreciate your attention to this important request.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Ruben Gallego
United States Senator

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Restitution Motion of the United States, *United States v. Gentile*, No. 21-cr-00054 (E.D.N.Y. Jun. 10, 2025), ECF No. 610, <https://www.politico.com/f/?id=0000019a-e5e8-da2c-af9f-ffe9ff0f0000>; *see also* Santul Nerkar and Kenneth P. Vogel, *Fraudster's Victims Are Seething After Trump Commuted His Sentence*, N.Y. TIMES (Dec. 12, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/12/12/nyregion/david-gentile-trump-commutation.html>.