

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216
(202) 225-6906
judiciary.house.gov

January 14, 2026

Mr. Roger G. Worthington
Worthington & Caron, P.C.
273 W. 7th Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

Dear Mr. Worthington:

The Committee on the Judiciary is investigating allegations of improper attempts by the Environmental Law Institute (“ELI”) and its Climate Judiciary Project (“CJP”) to influence federal judges.¹ ELI has publicly stated that “CJP does not participate in litigation, provide support for or coordinate with any parties in litigation, or advise judges on how they should rule on any issue or in any case.”² In response to the Committee’s investigation, ELI has reiterated the same point.³ However, evidence has emerged that raises questions about whether ELI, CJP, or one or more of its “experts” coordinated with your law firm, Worthington & Caron, P.C., on judicial training materials while your firm simultaneously litigated climate-change related lawsuits pending before federal courts.⁴

A document obtained by the Committee indicates that Worthington & Caron may have had pre-publication access to materials prepared by ELI for CJP’s judicial training curriculum. A judicial training module titled, “Drawing the Causal Chain: The Detection and Attribution of Climate Change,” authored by Michael F. Wehner, was released by ELI and CJP in June 2023.⁵

¹ Letter from Representative Jim Jordan, Chairman, House Judiciary Committee, et al., to Jordan Diamond, President, Environmental Law Institute (Aug. 29, 2025), <https://judiciary.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/republicans-judiciary.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2025-08-29-jdj-dei-wh-to-eli-diamond-re-cjp.pdf>.

² Kamden Mulder, *Climate Activists Are Influencing Judges to Rule In Their Favor Using this ‘Educational Program*, NATIONAL REVIEW (Sept. 4, 2025), <https://www.nationalreview.com/news/climate-activists-are-influencing-judges-to-rule-in-their-favor-using-this-educational-program/>.

³ Letter from Susanne Sachzman Grooms, Counsel for the Environmental Law Institute to Representative Jim Jordan, Chairman, House Judiciary Committee, et al. (Sept. 12, 2025) (“CJP does not participate in litigation, support or coordinate with any parties related to any litigation, or advise judges on how they should rule on any issue or in any case.”) [hereinafter *September 12, 2025 Letter*].

⁴ Mulder, *supra* note 2; Mandi Risko, *Exposed: Plaintiff Counsel’s Fingerprints on “Independent” Climate Studies*, ENERGY IN DEPTH (Sept. 18, 2025), <https://eidclimate.org/exposed-plaintiff-counsels-fingerprints-on-independent-climate-studies/> (“the Worthington & Caron LLP website links to a draft ‘module’ used by Environmental Law Institute’s Climate Judiciary Project (CJP) to train judges about climate science”).

⁵ Michael Wehner, *Part One: Scientific Foundation of Climate Change, Detection and Attribution of Climate Change*, ENVTL. LAW INST. (Jun. 2023), <https://cjp.eli.org/curriculum/detection-and-attribution-climate-change>.

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An apparent pre-publication version of the same training module has been hosted on the website of your firm, Worthington and Caron.⁶ The metadata for the document on your website indicates that it was created on April 17, 2023 at 2:03:22 PM, and last modified less than a minute later.⁷ In addition to pre-dating the publication date of the document, the document hosted on your firm's website includes what appears to be peer-reviewed comments, indicating the pre-publication nature of the document.⁸ Worthington & Caron having pre-publication access to judicial training modules raises significant concerns regarding potential improper *ex parte* contact with judges as well as calling into question the veracity of representations that ELI has made to the Committee about CJP's contact and engagement with parties in litigation.⁹

It is important for the Committee's oversight to fully understand the scope of your and Worthington & Caron's communications with ELI and CJP, and its leadership, including ELI's president, Jordan Diamond, and affiliated "experts," including Michael F. Wehner. Accordingly, we ask that you provide the following material:

1. All documents and communications between or among you or Worthington & Caron, P.C. (including all firm employees, regardless of whether acting in an official or personal capacity) and any representative, employee, contractor, expert, or Advisory Curriculum Committee member of CJP or ELI, including but not limited to Jordan Diamond or Michael Wehner, for the period January 1, 2018, to the present referring or relating to the following:
 - a. CJP or ELI;
 - b. ELI's or CJP's judicial training modules and other publications;
 - c. You or Worthington & Caron, P.C.'s participation in CJP or ELI sponsored or affiliated judicial training events (including all employees of Worthington & Caron, P.C., regardless of whether acting in an official or personal capacity); or
 - d. You or Worthington & Caron, P.C.'s participation in any other judicial education programming (including all employees of Worthington & Caron, P.C. regardless of whether acting in an official or personal capacity).
2. Documents sufficient to identify the identity of all state or federal judges assigned to climate-related suits in which Worthington & Caron, P.C. is involved in any manner, whether as counsel of record or otherwise.
3. All documents and communications, whether direct or through intermediaries, between or among Worthington & Caron, P.C. and any state or federal judges (or their staff)

⁶ Michael F. Wehner, *Drawing the Causal Chain: The Detection of Attribution of Climate Change*, <https://www.worthingtoncaron.com/documents/Drawing-the-causal-chain.pdf> (last visited Dec. 11, 2025).

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Mulder, *supra* note 2 (ELI asserting that "CJP does not participate in litigation, provide support for or coordinate with any parties in litigation, or advise judges on how they should rule on any issue or in any case."); *September 12, 2025 Letter*, *supra* note 3.

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assigned to climate-related suits in which Worthington & Caron, P.C. is involved in any manner, whether as counsel of record or otherwise.

We ask that you provide these materials and information as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 28, 2026.

This letter serves as a formal request to preserve all existing and future records and materials relating to the topics addressed in this letter. You should construe this preservation notice as an instruction to take all reasonable steps to prevent the destruction or alteration, whether intentionally or negligently, of all documents, communications, and other information, including electronic information and metadata, that are or may be responsive to this congressional inquiry. This instruction includes all electronic messages sent using your professional and personal accounts or devices, including records created using text messages, phone-based message applications, or encryption software.

The Supreme Court has recognized that Congress has a “broad and indispensable” power to conduct oversight, which “encompasses inquiries into the administration of existing laws, studies of proposed laws, and surveys in our social, economic, or political system for the purpose of enabling Congress to remedy them.”¹⁰ The Committee is authorized to conduct oversight of “[t]he judiciary and judicial proceedings” and “[f]ederal courts and judges,” pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives.¹¹ If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-6906.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan
Chairman



Darrell Issa
Chairman
Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual
Property, Artificial Intelligence
and the Internet

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member

The Honorable Henry C. “Hank” Johnson, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, Artificial Intelligence, and the Internet

¹⁰ *Trump v. Mazars USA, LLP*, 591 U.S. 848, 862 (2020) (internal quotation marks omitted).

¹¹ Rules of the House of Representatives, R. X, 119th Cong. (2025).