

March 1, 2023

**Via hand delivery**

Office of Lawyer Regulation  
110 East Main Street, Suite 315  
Madison, Wis. 53701-1648

***Re: Michael J. Gableman***

To the Office of Lawyer Regulation,

From July 2021 until he was ignominiously fired in August 2022, Michael J. Gableman waged a disastrous and embarrassing attack on Wisconsin's legal and political institutions. While claiming to work on behalf of the people of Wisconsin, Gableman ran roughshod over the truth and did lasting damage to the public's faith in elections.

Because Gableman acted as an attorney throughout this process and was therefore subject to the Supreme Court Rules of Professional Conduct for Attorneys, much of his conduct demands accountability from the Office of Lawyer Regulation and the Supreme Court of Wisconsin. As attorneys who represented parties dragged into Gableman's partisan crusade, we became aware of many ways in which Gableman violated the ethical Rules. The attached memorandum details these violations.

*First*, Gableman's conduct regularly fell below the standard of competence for lawyers in this state. Gableman had no understanding of how elections work, and he took no steps to become knowledgeable. Instead, he relied on non-Wisconsin attorneys and staff, and consulted with conspiracy theorists. Gableman's lack of basic competence infected the rest of his work.

*Second*, Gableman consistently demonstrated a lack of honesty and truthfulness. Gableman and his office misled opposing counsel about his intentions regarding legislative subpoenas for testimony and documents. He obfuscated the identity and roles of members of his team through anonymous email addresses. He contacted, or had others contact, parties he knew to be represented by counsel. He misled the Waukesha County Circuit Court by filing inaccurate and materially incomplete petitions in an effort to jail the Mayors of Green Bay and Madison. Gableman was dishonest with the public, which paid the salary for which he claimed to work, by inflating the nature of his authority, releasing inaccurate videos, and misrepresenting the status of litigation. And Gableman disserved the interests of various entities that were potentially his client, particularly by advising the Assembly to undertake a course of action that Gableman himself believed was contrary to existing law and the Assembly's best interests.

*Third*, Gableman pursued frivolous litigation claims and abuses legal processes to harass groups and individuals with whom he had political disagreements.

*Fourth*, Gableman failed to abide by the Rules governing attorney-client relationships. He did not maintain a written fee agreement. Even when there was an agreement in place, he exceeded the authority it vested in him. Gableman failed to withdraw from litigation when he was terminated. And he engaged in public conflict with someone who was potentially his client.

*Fifth*, Gableman violated basic rules of legal practice. He hired out-of-state lawyers and failed to properly supervise them. He employed people with obvious conflicts of interest and maintained an inappropriately muddy relationship with other lawyers and firms. He targeted and harassed women, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities. He wasted taxpayer funds. He ran what was ostensibly a government office without making any effort to follow the open records law.

*Sixth and finally*, Gableman's conduct throughout evinced a complete disregard for the requirements of his oath as an attorney. This is itself an ethical violation in Wisconsin. But Gableman's disregard, within his short tenure as Special Counsel, for every single clause of the oath encapsulates the overwhelmingly unethical way in which he conducted himself and his office.

Certain accountability for Gableman's excesses should come through the political system. But his conduct as a lawyer, and his shocking disregard for the rules governing our profession, as well as our obligations under the Rules, require a response. We hope the attached memorandum and appendix are of use to the Office of Lawyer Regulation. We stand ready to provide any additional information that might be needed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel S. Lenz".

Daniel S. Lenz  
Law Forward, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Mandell".

Jeffrey A. Mandell  
Stafford Rosenbaum LLP

Encl.