Statement from the Nordic Bar Associations on the Importance of the Rule of Law and the Independence of the Legal Profession in the United States

The Nordic Bar Associations express their concern about recent developments in the United States that may impact the independence of the legal profession and the judiciary — two pillars essential to upholding the rule of law in any democratic society.

Political actions and rhetoric targeting lawyers have highlighted the importance of protecting the ability of lawyers to advise clients independently and without fear of political pressure. Similarly, the judiciary must remain free to interpret and apply the law impartially, without influence or intimidation.

The Nordic Bar Associations share the concerns raised by the International Bar Association (IBA), the American Bar Association (ABA), and other legal organizations, and emphasize that a strong and independent legal profession is fundamental to democratic governance and access to justice.

The five Nordic Bar Associations state that the Rule of Law depends on the ability of lawyers to act independently and on judges to make decisions free from political influence. As members of the international legal community, we stand in solidarity with colleagues in the United States and elsewhere who work to protect these values under challenging conditions.

The Nordic Bar Associations call on all states to safeguard the independence of legal institutions and to foster a climate of respect for legal professionals and the role they play in democratic societies.

The Finnish Bar Association

The Danish Bar and Law Society

The Swedish Bar Association

The Icelandic Bar Association

The Norwegian Bar Association