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American Bar Association Announces Task Force on Prosecutorial Independence

*FJP Executive Director to serve alongside distinguished legal experts seeking to
safeguard prosecutorial independence*

This week, the American Bar Association Criminal Justice Section [launched](#) a Task Force of Prosecutorial Independence, which will work to preserve and strengthen prosecutorial independence and enhance the American public’s understanding of the prosecutor’s critical role in maintaining the integrity of the criminal justice system.

Fair and Just Prosecution Executive Director Miriam Krinsky, a former federal prosecutor, is among the distinguished members of the nonpartisan task force. FJP has been at the forefront of fighting back against attacks on prosecutorial discretion, including by filing *amicus* briefs from dozens of criminal justice experts in cases regarding [legislative infringement](#) on prosecutorial independence and [baseless removals](#) of elected prosecutors.

“The launch of this task force comes at an essential time, when elected prosecutors across the country are under attack simply for making decisions that are supported by their communities and in the interest of public safety,” said Krinsky. “It is an honor to serve on this task force and fight for the protection of prosecutorial independence in the American legal system and the democratic prerogative of local communities who elect prosecutors to promote their vision for public safety and justice.”

The task force will be co-chaired by John Choi, attorney for Ramsey County in Saint Paul, Minnesota; Ellen S. Podgor, the Gary R. Trombley Family White Collar Crime Research Professor at the Stetson University College of Law; and Ellen Yaroshefsky, the Howard Lichtenstein Distinguished Professor of Legal Ethics at the Maurice A Deane School of Law at Hofstra University. The task force includes a diverse group of prosecutors, defenders, legal scholars and others with expertise in the criminal justice system from across the country and across the political spectrum. Sara Alpert Lawson of Zuckerman Spaeder LLP is the reporter.

The task force will also be assisted by an advisory board composed of national leaders, including former U.S. Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales, former U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch, former U.S. Deputy Attorney General Larry D. Thompson, former King County (Seattle) Prosecuting Attorney Daniel Satterberg, and former Florida Supreme Court Justice Peggy Quince. For more information about the task force, visit the [ABA website](#) and for more on why

attacks on prosecutorial independence are attacks on democracy, read FJP's law review article [here](#).

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Fair and Just Prosecution is a national network of elected prosecutors working towards common-sense, compassionate criminal justice reforms. To learn more about FJP's work, visit our [website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).