



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of the Solicitor General

The Solicitor General

Washington, D.C. 20530

July 28, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Restriction on the Removal of the Head of Voice of America

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Consistent with 28 U.S.C. 530D, I write to advise you that the Department of Justice has determined that the statutory removal restriction applicable to the head of Voice of America, 22 U.S.C. 6205(e)(1), is unconstitutional. The Department will take that position in briefs that it will file in defense of the removal of Michael Abramowitz from that office. See *Abramowitz v. Lake*, No. 25-cv-887 (D.D.C.).

The head of Voice of America, an inferior executive officer, is appointed by the Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency for Global Media. See 22 U.S.C. 6205(e)(1). A federal statute provides that the Chief Executive Officer may remove the head of Voice of America only with the approval of the Independent Broadcasting Advisory Board. See *ibid*.

Under Article II, inferior executive officers must be removable at will by the President or by a department head acting on the President's behalf. See *Seila Law LLC v. CFPB*, 591 U.S. 197, 215 (2020). The Supreme Court has recognized only one narrow exception to that "general rule." *Ibid*. That exception extends, at most, to certain domestic inferior officers "with limited duties and no policymaking or administrative authority." *Id.* at 218. The head of Voice of America falls outside that exception. Among other things, he exercises significant policymaking or administrative authority in supervising Voice of America, and Voice of America's activities implicate the President's authority to manage foreign affairs.

Please let me know if we can be of any further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

D. John Sauer
Solicitor General