



**SPECIAL REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY’S OFFICE
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS REGARDING
GRAND JURY APPEARANCES**

Today, the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Illinois is issuing a Special Report consisting of the court-authorized disclosure of grand jury materials that would otherwise be subject to grand jury secrecy pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 6(e) and the unauthorized disclosure of which would ordinarily be subject to potential criminal sanctions. Even more, the grand jury materials disclosed in this Special Report consist of highly secretive grand jury “minutes,” which are those portions of a grand jury session where the United States Attorney, or an Assistant U.S. Attorney, as the legal advisors to the grand jury, speaks to grand jurors without a witness on the witness stand either about general subject matters, or in the case of particular matter, the law governing the case or sometimes the application of the law to the facts of the case.

This rare Special Report is being issued in the public interest as well as the interest of justice in light of speculation about U.S. Attorney Andrew S. Boutros’s appearance in what some have dubbed the “Broadview 6” grand jury, which is the panel of grand jurors from the Special June 2024 Grand Jury hearing evidence on that specific matter. That speculation was created on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, in open court, when counsel for the one of the defendants in *United States v. Rabbitt, et al.*, 25 CR 693 (Perry, J.) stated in relevant part in open court before going into closed session that: “We have a belief that the U.S. Attorney had personal contact with this grand jury. We have not been provided with that transcript. I believe there’s an update on that. If that did occur, we would like that as well.” *Rabbitt, et al.*, Transcript, 05/26/2026, p. 22, lns. 13-16.

Following that comment by counsel in the public record, the media widely reported that U.S. Attorney Boutros may have addressed grand jurors in matter 25 GJ 994, the matter in which facts, evidence, and law were being heard in that specific grand jury matter.

The bottom line of this Special Report is as follows: U.S. Attorney Boutros has never appeared before the panel of grand jurors hearing facts, evidence, or law in matter 25 GJ 994. Instead, his appearance in the Special June 2024 Grand Jury, and any other grand jury since becoming U.S. Attorney on April 7, 2025, has been in his capacity as the Chief Legal Advisor to the federal grand juries of this District, including to welcome grand jurors when they were impaneled and/or to advise generally on the role, function, and importance of the grand jury in our constitutional system of government and laws.

Grand Jury Minutes in Matter 25 GJ 994 on October 16, 2025

A review of the confidential minutes from October 16, 2025 grand jury presentation in matter 25 GJ 994, shows that in the late afternoon at what is marked in the transcripts as 09:52:50, 09:52:58, and through before 09:53:19, the following exchange occurred between the Grand Jury Foreperson and one of the Assistant United States Attorneys presenting in that matter:

GJ Foreperson: You know, I would say one thing. **When the USA (inaudible)** – was here last week, the one thing he said that made so much sense – can I say it?

AUSA: Yes.

GJ Foreperson: This is the accusatory phase, not the guilt-finding phase.

AUSA: Right.

GJ Foreperson: So those are very different things, and our burden of proof is much lower than if we have a trial we have to prove that these people did something.

U.S. Attorney’s Office Pulls Grand Jury Audio Recording from October 16, 2025

Given the reference in this exchange to “USA (inaudible),” the U.S. Attorney’s Office pulled the audio recording of that above-quoted exchange from the October 16, 2025 grand jury minutes in matter 25 GJ 994 to determine whether in fact, the audio was “inaudible,” as the transcript states. In doing so, the audio recording makes clear that the reference to “USA (inaudible)” is in fact clearly audible and what the audio recording reflects is that the Grand Jury Foreperson actually said is “AUSA Bond”—and, not “USA (inaudible).” AUSA Bond is a reference to Assistant United States Attorney Aaron Bond, who is the Chief of the Office’s Narcotics Section. So, what the transcript should have read based on clear listening of the audio recording from October 16, 2025, is:

GJ Foreperson: “You know, I would say one thing. When **AUSA Bond**— was here last week, the one thing he said that made so much sense – can I say it?”

AUSA: Yes.

U.S. Attorney's Office Pulls Schedule Grand Jury Schedule from October 9, 2025 as well as the Audio Recording of Pertinent Grand Jury Minutes from October 9, 2025

The U.S. Attorney's Office then pulled the schedule from the prior week, namely, October 9, 2025, for the Special June 2024 Grand Jury. In doing so, the U.S. Attorney's Office confirmed that according to the grand jury schedule, Chief Aaron Bond was in fact presenting evidence to the Special June 2024 Grand Jury on a matter unrelated to 25 GJ 994 and did so on October 9, 2025, between approximately 3:15 and 4:00 pm Central time. In addition, the U.S. Attorney's Office pulled the audio recording of Chief Bond's presentation to the grand jury on October 9, 2025, on the matter unrelated to 25 GJ 994, and confirmed that in his presentation on that unrelated matter, Chief Bond did in fact state, "As you all know, this is an accusatory phase of the process, not the guilt-finding phase. . . ." This, of course, is the same reference that the Grand Juror Foreperson made in the minutes of the 25 GJ 994 Broadview matter on October 23, 2025. Meaning, that on October 23, 2025, while hearing evidence and law on 25 GJ 994 (*i.e.*, the Broadview matter), the Grand Jury Foreperson made a reference to something that Chief Bond said in the week prior (that is, October 9, 2025) in an unrelated matter, namely, that "This is the accusatory phase, not the guilt-finding phase."

Grand Jury Minutes from October 23, 2025 Reflect Classic Case of Mistaken Identity

Therefore, a transcription error made by the court reporter transcribing the audio recording of the grand jury minutes from October 23, 2025, inadvertently and mistakenly stated "USA (inaudible)" instead of "AUSA Bond," as what the Grand Jury Foreperson said in the relevant portion of the minutes.

U.S. Attorney Boutros Addresses Thursday, Special June 2024 Grand Jury on October 23, 2025 at First Possible Morning Session and Does So in Response to Grand Jury Disturbances from the Prior Week, namely, October 16, 2025

Separately, early in the morning, on the same day that the Assistant United States Attorneys would be re-presenting evidence and law to the grand jurors in matter 25 GJ 994, U.S. Attorney Boutros made a brief general appearance in the Thursday, Special June 2024 Grand Jury as well as he did in two other grand juries sitting on different days, namely, the grand juries sitting on Mondays and Wednesdays days. U.S. Attorney Boutros did not appear in and address the Tuesday grand jury because he subsequently learned that the Tuesday grand jury was set to expire on Tuesday, October 28, 2025. In fact, the Tuesday grand jury did not sit at all on October 21, 2025, or October 28, 2025.

U.S. Attorney Boutros addressed each of these grand juries after informing the Chief U.S. District

Court Judge for the Northern District of Illinois in her capacity as the supervisor of the federal grand juries and all matters occurring before those grand juries in the District, that he would do so given prior grand jury disturbances and potential tension, as reported in the Special June 2024 Grand Jury hearing evidence on 25 GJ 994 on October 16, 2025. In addressing the grand juries, U.S. Attorney Boutros's intentions were to remind the grand jurors of their obligations under the law and the role they play in our constitutional form of government. The timing of U.S. Attorney Boutros's appearances in the three grand juries not set to expire coincided with the reading of a letter to those grand juries from the Chief Judge. The U.S. Attorney's Office does not have and has not seen a copy of the Chief Judge's letter that was read to the different grand juries.

In the morning of October 23, 2025, U.S. Attorney Boutros addressed the Thursday, Special June 2024 Grand Jury for roughly 3 minutes and 39 seconds and stated the following (reproduced in full):

So my name is Andrew Boutros this is the court reporter on Oh. Yes. Hi, good morning. Hi. My name's Andrew Boutros. You may be familiar with my name. I'm the US Attorney and so I wanted to come up and I'm gonna do this in all the grand juries, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday—introduce myself in some cases again, in some cases, for the first time. And I also understand from the Chief Judge that a, a letter was just read into the record. And so I just wanted to kind of stress upon everybody as the United States Attorney here. Uh, and by the way, I was an Assistant here before that for about eight years. And so I remember coming up here, the grand jury room looked very different <laugh> when I was here. And as a result of COVID, that's the reason why all you are so spread out. We used to be really close together. They merged two different rooms.

But this is a really important function that you all play as grand jurors and it's constitutional. And part of the key to what you all do is to, in addition to obviously being the conscience of the community, is that you are listening to the evidence, listening to the facts, listening to the law and doing, applying those facts to the law to determine if there's probable cause without fear or favor. And setting aside your emotions, setting aside your personal views, beliefs and biases. And just simply as I like to say, calling balls and strikes. You're the umpire and you can't come in and be an umpire in favor of particular team. You gotta call balls and strikes and that's all we ask.

But we also recognize that these are trying times, these are emotional times. You can't help but turn on the news, read the newspapers, or for those of you who use TikTok and Instagram, and there's stuff in there all the time.

So my question to you, and again, I'm gonna do this in all the grand juries,

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. If there's anyone here who is struggling with a certain type of cases, such as the immigration cases or other cases where they do not believe that they can set aside their personal, their personal emotions, that they cannot listen and deliberate honestly and objectively, I would ask that you raise your hand and identify yourself, because we have a different procedure for that. And so is there anyone here who thinks that he or she cannot—and this is no, by the way, no different than if we were actually in a jury and we were picking a jury. The judge would engage in this type of colloquially with every single juror to make sure that the person, both the government as well as the defendant has a fair juror. Fairness is the key to the operation of our system.

So is there anyone here who thinks that he or she cannot be fair, cannot be open-minded, cannot receive evidence, cannot set aside their personal feelings on any case, immigration or otherwise, child exploitation, immigration, whatever it is. Anyone who thinks they can't do it, please raise your hand.

Okay. Seeing none, thank you for your service. It is a pleasure to see all of you. We know it is a big responsibility. You sit for what, 16 or 18 months? 18. 18. You guys know. Um, how long have you been up here? 16. 16. And how many days? Eight. Sometimes people like 16 days <laugh>. We have left. Eight. We have eight left. Eight. Oh we got to count. Eight left. We got a count. Alright, good. Alright, well we thank you for your service. We know it's a big imposition. Some of you've traveled from far and wide. And really what this is all about, and I say it again, is fairness.

Thank you.

Conclusion

As reflected immediately above, never once in any of his remarks in any grand jury did U.S. Attorney Boutros reference any case or any specific substantive law. The importance of U.S. Attorney Boutros entering into the grand jury cannot be overstated; that is because under the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution: “No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury,” except in certain cases and instances not relevant here. Grand juries unwilling to deliberate individually or as a collective body, or unwilling to attend grand jury sessions at all, or to receive evidence impartially without fear or favor, setting aside personally biases, views, and passions, are a threat to the rule of law and could mean that a district is operating in such a way that federal criminal law cannot be enforced. In such unchartered and unprecedented circumstances, extraordinary measures may be required to restore the rule of law.