

The Honorable Brian Schwalb

Office of the Attorney General

For the District of Columbia

Patrick Henry Building

400 6th St NW, Washington, DC 20001

Dear Attorney General Schwalb:

I hope and pray you and your family are well.

My name is Julian Raven, artist, author and Smithsonian litigant. Having listened to your inaugural address, I am emailing you to take you up on your invitation to approach your willing listening ear. I too have had counsel throughout my adult life regarding heeding the ratio of ears to mouth as essential to a healthy and happy life. As a fellow Jew, I share in the wisdom handed down through generations of Hebrews, even through St. James from the New Testament who instructed us in the same way to be “quick to listen and slow to speak.”

I write to you in your official capacity as **Parens Patriae** for the District of Columbia to invoke your cooperation in the defense of **James Smithson’s charitable trust**, established by a testamentary gift in 1846 “for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men.” The Smithsonian Institution exists only because the United States Congress accepted Smithson’s bequest **in trust** and vested fiduciary responsibility in a great American scientist Joseph Henry and a Board of Regents composed of members of all three branches of the federal government and of the public.

This congressionally established ‘independent’ trust instrumentality, has been a source of remarkable legal entity confusion since its founding. Many of the pertinent surrounding facts I include in my attached briefs for your consideration. But for this letter’s sake, I must include this statement to clearly illuminate the nearly two centuries of misunderstanding that persist to this day. That is, that “the Smithsonian is **not**, and has **never** been considered a government bureau, it is a private institution under the guardianship of the government.” **Former U.S. President, Supreme Court Chief Justice and Smithsonian Chancellor William Howard Taft**. And yet in my first lawsuit, federal Judge Trevor McFadden ruled that the Smithsonian is the “government through and through,” granting the private charity full government speech powers and thus depriving me of my 1st amendment guaranteed free-speech rights.

This legal identity enigma — whether charitable trust or government agency — has spawned the fertile soil of unintelligible ambiguity that has permitted and even encouraged repeated encroachments. Today, the most significant threat arises from the Executive itself: presidential overreach into the trust’s governance, unrestrained by congressional oversight, has placed the

Institution in jeopardy of being converted into an instrument of political will rather than donor intent.

As such, you Sir, as *Parens Patriae*, and me as both a public trust beneficiary as an American Citizen and a ‘special interest’ participant in the testamentary trust are both called to be defenders of the Will of James Smithson. This intervention arises when corruption of the donor’s intent has reached a point where the once private property and generous public gift has become a political football and a federal orphan on the field of partisan actors, coercive misappropriations and opportunistic initiatives.

Mr. Attorney General, please forgive me if what I am telling you, you already know. I mean only to apprise you of our duties, lest these fundamental civil rights that are in play are trampled beyond recovery. I am presently in my third federal lawsuit against the Smithsonian Institution. (25-cv-02332 TSC, 22-cv-2809 CRC & 17-cv-01240 TNM) As a politically independent person, and former Trump supporter but ardent supporter of the Rule of Law and of the U.S. Constitution that I am sworn to defend as a naturalized U.S. Citizen, much like yourself as the AG, our common attention and obligation to these matters are inviolable. We may not agree politically on many things, but on these present realities, I am confident we might. With your recent willingness to sue the President and the executive office, I am confident that what I am about to share with you will compel you to Mr. Smithson’s defense.

The office you now hold carries a unique and ancient responsibility that often lies unspoken in modern practice: as *Parens Patriae*, the Attorney General is vested with the duty to safeguard charitable trusts for the benefit of the public. The courts have long recognized that where a trust serves indefinite beneficiaries, no private person (except one with special interest status) may enforce it; only the state, acting through its Attorney General, holds standing to do so. See *Russell v. Allen*, 107 U.S. 163, 167 (1883). This guardianship function is not discretionary but inherent in your role — you are, by law and tradition, the protector of charitable purposes against diversion, abuse, or political capture.


The law of equity provides the remedy in our present predicament. As *Parens Patriae*, you possess the standing and duty to enforce the Smithson trust, whether by independent action under D.C. Code § 19-1304.05(a)(3), or by intervention and amicus support in my pending proceedings. To remain silent would be to concede the permanent corruption of the trust’s charitable character; to act is to reaffirm that the law still protects donor intent and public confidence alike.

The two tip-of-the-spear motions before Judge Tanya Chutkan are for 1. Certification of the unanswered question of federal law regarding the Smithsonian Institution’s legal entity status before the U.S. Supreme Court. This must happen first, to once and for all resolve the mystery and establish the legal grounds necessary to rightly dispel the fog of the elusive enigma. This will ensure Mr. Smithson’s and my civil rights are vindicated. (I have petitioned SCOTUS now

three times for the same answer, and yet because I am a pro se litigant, my question does not carry the legal gravitas necessary to compel the esteemed justices to peer over the bench to look down and afford my miniscule legal status a moment of genuine consideration.) And 2. for an injunction to block the President's present initiatives until the Smithsonian enigma is settled by SCOTUS.

I therefore respectfully urge your office to review the record, to recognize your singular role as guardian of the Smithson trust, and to take appropriate steps to restore and preserve its integrity.

Humbly at your service,



Julian Raven
August, 19th, 2025
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P.s Like in the historic account of Joseph, who after rightly interpreting Pharoah's cupbearer's dream, and seeing him redeemed from his lowly estate in prison, and restored to his rightful status, Joseph implores Pharoah's cupbearer to remember him. Joseph hoped that his service to the cupbearer would bring him vindication and freedom.

I too humbly beseech you, Mr. Attorney General for the District of Columbia, to remember me and include my cause in anything you may decide to do within your capacity as Parens Patriae.

