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## DOJ Investigates New York AG Over Trump Cases

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Federal prosecutors from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York have launched an early-stage investigation into the office of New York Attorney General Letitia James, who brought civil fraud cases against former President Donald Trump and the National Rifle Association (NRA), sources familiar with the matter told NBC News.

The probe is focused on whether James' office improperly deprived legal rights under the color of law in its civil litigation against Trump, his businesses, and the NRA. Specifically, investigators are examining whether the civil suits were used to target political opponents unfairly.

The investigation is being conducted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York, according to two sources.

In a statement responding to NBC News, a spokesperson for James' office said: "Any weaponization of the justice system should disturb every American. We stand strongly behind our successful litigation against the Trump Organization and the National Rifle Association, and we will continue to stand up for New Yorkers' rights."

A spokesperson for the U.S. Attorney's Office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

James' office successfully sued Trump and his company for allegedly making fraudulent misrepresentations about his wealth and financial status. In the civil case, a judge ordered Trump's organization to pay over \$300 million in disgorgement penalties. The ruling is currently under appeal.

Separately, James' office filed a lawsuit against the NRA and its leadership, seeking to dissolve the organization in what was termed the corporate "death penalty." However, a judge rejected the request to dissolve the NRA.

Despite the mixed results in the NRA case, James' office secured a major civil fraud victory in 2024 when a jury found longtime NRA head Wayne LaPierre guilty of diverting millions of dollars from the organization for personal use.

The Justice Department has not disclosed how far the investigation into James' office has progressed, nor the nature or extent of any evidence gathered. The probe highlights increasing scrutiny of politically charged legal actions by state attorneys general.

The inquiry comes amid growing political tensions and legal battles involving prominent figures and organizations on both sides of the aisle. Federal authorities are reviewing whether James' office abused its power or acted within the bounds of its legal responsibilities.

As this investigation develops, it could have significant implications for the oversight of state legal offices and the broader debate over the politicization of the justice system.