



July 21, 2025

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**VIA EMAIL ONLY**

David Pitcher  
c/o Carmen Graham (Carmen.Graham@doj.oregon.gov)  
Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Oregon Department of Justice  
1162 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: Oregon Public Records Request**

Dear Mr. Pitcher:

A recent [news article](#) from the Oregon Capital Chronicle reports several public statements by the Oregon Department of Justice (“Department”) about its decision to retain outside law firms to investigate, and ultimately sue, Coinbase. We were surprised and concerned by the Department’s statements because they appear at odds with information provided to Coinbase and call into question the veracity of the Department’s responses to Coinbase’s public record requests. And more broadly, those statements call into question whether the Department’s investigation of Coinbase was fair, impartial, and consistent with Constitutional requirements of due process.

These new admissions reveal that the Department hired outside law firms that donated thousands of dollars in campaign contributions to both Attorney General Rayfield and his predecessor Attorney General Rosenblum to *investigate* Coinbase beginning in 2023. Yet the only retention agreements produced by the Department for those firms were dated April 2, 2025, more than three months *after* Attorney General Rayfield took office.

The Department’s new public statements, when compared to its responses to Coinbase’s public records request, show several discrepancies, including:

- Attorney General Rayfield says “he had no role” in hiring Cohen Milstein and Keller Rohrbach. But those 2025 retention agreements were signed by *his staff* months after he took office.
- Attorney General Rayfield says those firms were hired to investigate Coinbase beginning in 2023. But the Department produced no agreements related to this earlier work.

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The Department remains obligated to comply with the Oregon Public Records Law, including providing *complete and accurate* responses to public records requests 8 & 9 in Coinbase's letter of May 2, 2025. Specifically, **Coinbase demands - pursuant to its prior request - that the Department disclose all outside counsel agreements relating to Coinbase no later than tomorrow, July 22, 2025**, including those with Cohen Milstein and Keller Rohrback referenced in the Department's public statements.

The outsourcing of investigations to financially-motivated law firms has chilling implications for the promise of due process and impartial treatment in the State of Oregon. While Oregonians might reasonably assume that investigations undertaken by the Department are fair, neutral, and evenhanded, it now appears that a private law firm with a financial interest in the investigation's outcome was involved in the decision-making from the outset. The Department's concealment of this fact and its failure to produce agreements showing these firms' involvement in investigating Coinbase – despite our public records requests – calls into question both the integrity of this matter and whether the Department takes seriously its obligations under the law to produce public records.

Coinbase is exploring all options and reserves all rights.

Very truly yours,



Timothy W. Snider