

Andrew Weissman

[Andrew Weissman](#) is a current professor of law at New York University, and frequent legal contributor to MSNBC. His astute and precise commentary is not only a reflection of his ability to think on his feet in regards to changing situations, but is also a product of his extremely impressive academic past. He went to Princeton for his undergraduate education and went on to become a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Geneva – an incredibly prestigious academic honor. Then, he received his J.D. from Columbia Law School. His career was defined by his work as the Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, where he prosecuted big crime families. His biggest case, however, was in prosecuting Enron. He has a reputation for being dogged. He's been described as a bulldog who would do anything to win, in the context of his work on the Enron case. Weissman embodies what it means to be a public intellectual. The caliber of his education very obviously makes him an intellectual, but the determination behind his work has pushed his intellectual output to such a level of excellence that it is so widely and publicly recognized. This attitude is reflected in his writings, as shown below.

[What is also clear from the indictment is that Mr. Trump will most likely not be the last white-collar defendant charged for the set of crimes it sets out. Mr. Smith clearly, and properly, considers that the six co-conspirators — parts of the indictment describe actions by co-conspirators that correspond with those taken by, for example, Mr. Eastman and Rudy Giuliani — committed federal offenses that threatened the core of our democracy. The rule of law cannot tolerate those actors facing charges with the main protagonist going scot free.](#)

The above quote demonstrates, first, the strength of Andrew Weissman's intellect. He makes very concrete points about the gravity of the prosecution of Donald Trump, without being

overtly partisan. Trump was the leader of the criminal activity, and therefore needs to be held accountable. If he isn't, that provides grounds to let the rest of the co-conspirators off the hook. That doesn't bode well for justice, nor does it provide hope for the endurance of American democracy. The content of his writing is intelligent, but it's also written with legal precision. His knowledge of the processes involved comes through in his discussion of the the case.

Additionally, the unapologetic and hard-hitting language exemplifies how Weissman employs forceful tactics to achieve what he wants. His words are strong, but precise. The last sentence is the best example, where he communicates a lack of tolerance for Trump's possible lack of prosecution. His commentary doesn't just rely on his lack of sympathy for the defendants, he follows up his strong takes with smart research and pointed action. He follows through on his analysis of a situation. He's not afraid to do anything it takes to hold powerful people accountable. More importantly, especially during his time as Assistant U.S. Attorney of the Eastern District of New York, he wasn't afraid to *go after* powerful criminals. In essence, Weissman wields his intellectual power for good and executes its application well. This is what earns him recognition, thus putting the "public" in public intellectual.