

Eric Holder Asks State Attorneys General To Ignore Law

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Corruption: Attorney General Eric Holder wants his counterparts at the state level to treat the rule of law with the same contempt and selectivity that he and his boss in the White House employ.

"We the people" and "consent of the governed" are important American concepts that Holder and his boss, President Obama, do not understand. They've made it clear by spreading their creeping lawlessness among the attorneys general of the 50 states.

We acknowledge the doctrine of prosecutorial discretion, which provides those charged with enforcing our laws in the courts with the authority to decide which particular cases merit pursuing.

However, this power does not extend to deciding which laws passed by the duly elected representatives of the people may be enforced.

Obama and Holder took oaths to see that the laws of the United States are faithfully executed, an oath both have ignored.

Obama, armed with his pen and his phone, has routinely ignored the courts, Congress and the Constitution. He's governed through regulations and executive orders like some banana republic dictator.

From unconstitutional recess appointments to the unlawful treatment of the statutory requirements of his own signature legislation, Obama operates as if laws are written on an Etch-A-Sketch. He has adopted the imperial attitude of a despot who believes the ends justify the means.

Holder has followed Obama's lead, choosing which laws to enforce and which to ignore. He dropped the New Black Panther voter intimidation case and decided to take his legal marbles and go home when the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The administration refused to defend DOMA, and the Supreme Court allowed a third party stand up for the marriage act simply because, in a nation of laws, even unpopular defendants are entitled to legal representation.

The court also noted that the powers of the executive do not include deciding which acts of Congress or state legislatures should be unenforced by inaction.

Speaking to the National Association of Attorneys General on Tuesday, Holder advised his state counterparts that they do not have to defend laws against constitutional court challenges if they consider them discriminatory. State bans on gay marriage would fall into this category.

Without arguing the merits of these particular laws and this particular issue, the logical extension of his remarks is to erode the rule of law by empowering state and federal attorneys general to selectively enforce or defend laws based on personal preference or ideology. If they do, Congress and state legislatures are reduced to irrelevant anachronisms.

At least there is some resistance to Holder's campaign. Alabama Attorney General Luther Strange of the Republican Attorneys General Association released a statement Tuesday that said:

"A state attorney general has a solemn duty to the state and its people to defend state laws and constitutional provisions against challenge under federal law. To refuse to do so because of personal policy preferences or political pressure erodes the rule of law on which all of our freedoms are founded. A government that does not enforce the law equally will lead our society to disrespect the rule of law."

The administration's excess use of authority prompted Jonathan Turley, a liberal law professor at George Washington University and supporter of the Affordable Care Act, to tell the House Judiciary Committee at a Dec. 3 hearing that Obama's abuse of executive power has grown to the point that "he's becoming the very danger the Constitution was designed to avoid."

And now his attorney general seeks to make such lawlessness the law of the land.