

## **Rule of law**

**What makes an officer a principal officer is that he or she reports only only to the president. ... A principal officer must be confirmed by the Senate. And that has a very significant consequence today. It means that Mr. Trump's installation of Matthew Whitaker as acting Attorney General of the United States after forcing the resignation of Jeff Sessions is unconstitutional. It's illegal. And it means that anything Mr. Whitaker does, or tries to do, in that position is invalid.**

**Neal K. Katyal and George T. Conway III,  
New York Times, November 8, 2018**