

Trump's Team Blasts His Lawyer as 'Dumb' 'Loudmouth'

Joe Tacopina "pisses off others with his antics, but he's a blunt object that Donald Trump wants, apparently," one source says

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<u>Donald Trump</u> hasn't surrendered to authorities yet. But his lawyers are already fighting — with themselves.

Days after the former president's indictment at the hands of Manhattan prosecutor <u>Alvin</u> <u>Bragg</u>, some of Trump's lawyers are taking aim at Joe Tacopina, his co-lead defense attorney in the Bragg case.

A source familiar with the matter and another person close to Trump tell *Rolling Stone* that a number of Trump's other current lawyers have privately described Tacopina as "dumb" and a "loudmouth."

Tacopina is no stranger to made-for-tabloid drama: He has a lengthy track record of repping high-profile clients, such as Meek Mill and baseball legend Alex Rodriguez, as well as securing hard-to-land wins. But he's also had some equally high-profile flameouts, including an acrimonious parting with his ex-client, former New York City Police Commissioner Bernie Kerik.

In recent days, as a Trump attorney, Tacopina has also become a more and more familiar face on cable television — and not always to the ex-president's benefit. During a recent appearance on Ari Melber's *The Beat*, for example, Tacopina tried to grab a piece of paper held by the MSNBC host during the heated exchange. Tacopina also defended Trump's denial of paying off porn star <u>Stormy Daniels</u> to keep her quiet about an alleged affair, albeit in a somewhat unique way: Insisting that the denial wasn't a lie as it wasn't made under oath.

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