

Lawyer: Bush failing constitutional duty

by UPI

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. -- A law professor who served in the U.S. Justice Department under President Bill Clinton says President Bush is abusing executive privilege. Dawn Johnsen, who teaches constitutional law at Indiana University, was an acting assistant attorney general in charge of the Office of Legal Counsel. She made her comments after former White House Counsel Harriet Miers refused to testify before Congress Thursday and Sara Taylor, the former White House political director, gave limited testimony on the firing of U.S. attorneys. "But the problem ultimately lies with President Bush, not with Taylor and Miers," Johnsen said. "It is the President who owes a constitutional duty to accommodate Congress' legitimate need for executive branch information while protecting his own legitimate confidentiality needs. Given the inadequacy thus far in what he has offered Congress, President Bush has not satisfied that constitutional obligation."

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