

A D D E N D U M
to
CONFIRMATION HEARING
ON FEDERAL APPOINTMENTS

This Addendum is available at:

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CHRG-119shrg62461/pdf/CHRG-119shrg62461-add1.pdf>

Submitted by Ranking Member Durbin:

Bragdon, David A., Alliance for Justice (AFJ), Opposition letter	2
Bragdon, David A., People For the American Way (PFAW), Opposition letter	4
Rodriguez, Susan Courtwright, Alliance for Justice (AFJ), Opposition letter	7
Taibleson, Rebecca L., AFA Action, Opposition letter	9
Taibleson, Rebecca L., Alliance for Justice (AFJ), Opposition letter	13
Taibleson, Rebecca L., Conservative Action Project (CAP), Opposition letter	15



Eleven Dupont Circle NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20036
www.afj.org | 202-822-6070

Field Offices
Dallas | Houston | Los Angeles |
San Francisco

PRESIDENT

Rachel Rossi

CHAIR

Madeline deLone

September 15, 2025

Senator Charles Grassley
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee

Senator Richard Durbin
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin,

On behalf of the Alliance for Justice (AFJ), a national association representing nearly 140 public interest and civil rights organizations, I strongly urge you and your colleagues on the Senate Judiciary Committee to reject the nomination of David Alan Bragdon to the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina.

The federal judiciary carries some of the most solemn and impactful responsibilities in our democracy: to safeguard the Constitution, protect individual rights, and deliver justice for all. David Bragdon rejects that vision. Through his writings, advocacy, and student legislative activity, he has revealed and advanced a worldview that prizes punishment at the expense of justice, elevates religious dogma above constitutional principle, and displays open contempt for historically marginalized communities — refusing to acknowledge that they endured decades of racist policies and practices.

Bragdon’s contempt for women’s autonomy could not be clearer. In his writings, he equates abortion to killing an unwanted neighbor, stating, “[i]t would be in my pursuit of happiness to kill the neighbor.” He further opines that women “must face the consequences” of unintended pregnancy and should be denied access to abortion. Such radical views signal outright hostility toward reproductive health care and, armed with the power of the federal bench, could strip women of agency and treat reproductive freedom as a moral failing that must be punished. Bragdon’s outdated and misogynistic perspective further foreshadows additional harm to contraception access and gender equality more broadly.

Equally troubling is Bragdon’s openly stated desire for capital punishment. While serving in student government, he argued that the death penalty should be the “standard punishment for murder” and that procedural safeguards should be stripped away, as they would weaken jury protections. He sees the justice system not as a guardian of fairness but as a machine for swift and unforgiving punishment — an outlook fundamentally at odds with the Constitution’s guarantees of due process and equal protection, and disregarding data that shows disproportionate and unjust use of capital punishment against communities of color.

When confronted with the well-documented racial disparities in executions, Bragdon dismissed the inequities outright, quoting Ernest van den Haag to argue that the answer is not to “let[] the guilty blacks escape the death penalty because guilty whites do, but [to] mak[e] sure that the guilty white offenders suffer it as the guilty blacks do.”

On his self-styled “Radical: Conservative, Republican, Libertarian” homepage, Bragdon framed government itself as an enemy of liberty, lamenting that “equality is beginning to replace liberty as the primary principle.” Rather than fearing our society is distorted by systemic inequities or corporate power, he fears the very notion that our government should work to ensure fairness. This hostility toward democratic institutions runs hand-in-hand with his religious-nationalist worldview, one that seeks to elevate his personal religious views over the pluralistic guarantees of our Constitution.

A lifetime appointment on the federal judiciary would be inappropriate, as Bragdon has a documented record of open disdain towards families struggling in poverty. He has caricatured welfare recipients as criminals and addicts, and insisted that government assistance programs breed “idleness, illegitimacy, drugs, and crime.” Rather than recognize the systemic barriers that have driven millions into poverty or acknowledge the clear positive impact of government support programs on vulnerable populations, he frames social safety nets as moral corruption. That outlook is not merely callous, it is profoundly uninformed and dangerous for a federal judge who will preside over cases involving housing, social safety net programs, disability rights, and other forms of relief for economically vulnerable people and their families.

Bragdon’s writings and proposals paint a picture of a nominee who would rather impose rigid and religious morals and allow harsh and potentially unjust punishments to prevail over guaranteeing fairness, acknowledging well-accepted data and following the law. This perspective remains fundamentally at odds with the role of a federal judge and threatens to erode constitutional protections that millions in a free and fair democracy rely upon.

For these reasons, Alliance for Justice strongly opposes the confirmation of David Alan Bragdon to the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina. A lifetime appointment to the federal bench is not a platform for ideology. It is a responsibility to ensure justice, equality, and the rule of law for every person. Bragdon has shown us, in his own words, what he would do with that power, and it would corrupt the very foundations of equal justice under law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel Rossi".

Rachel Rossi
President, Alliance for Justice

September 16, 2025

Senator Chuck Grassley
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee

Senator Dick Durbin
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Senator Grassley and Senator Durbin:

On behalf of our hundreds of thousands of supporters and activists nationwide, People For the American Way opposes the nomination of David Bragdon to be a judge in the Middle District of North Carolina. His frank writings maintained on a personal blog suggest that he would use the bench to advance a far-right personal ideological agenda.

Introduction

The federal courts are essential to providing the checks and balances needed to prevent tyranny. At present, they are the only branch of the federal government carrying out this essential function. As we explained in detail in a May 30, 2025, letter to the Judiciary Committee, a president who defies court orders and threatens judges should not be allowed to name anyone to the one branch of the federal government that is checking his power.

Events since then have only strengthened our case. For instance, an extensively-documented whistleblower complaint has revealed that senior Justice Department official Emil Bove suggested in March that the administration violate court orders. President Trump subsequently nominated Bove to a seat on the Third Circuit. The administration now routinely defies the courts. In fact, a July study revealed that the Trump administration has defied one in three judges who have ruled against him.

This president is dangerously unqualified to be making lifetime appointments to the one branch of government that is providing checks and balances to his lawless actions.

Moreover, the record of this specific nominee also raises deep concerns.

David Bragdon

During the late 1990s and early 2000s, during and after college, Bragdon maintained a personal blog reflecting his positions on numerous issues that today still shape the national discussion around the role of the judiciary. Many of his views are disturbing.

For instance, he expressed a deep opposition to abortion rights. He wrote in support of legal personhood for a fetus, stating that a fetus should have the same rights under the

Constitution as a child. In fact, he found no difference between having an abortion and killing an annoying neighbor:

Since it is in her pursuit of happiness to kill the fetus, she is protected by the constitution [sic]. If I didn't like my new neighbor, would he be protected by the constitution if he killed him. After all, I didn't want him to come in the first place. It would be in my pursuit of happiness to kill the neighbor.ⁱ

Bragdon's writing reflected a dismissive judgment against women seeking abortion care. After listing the reasons that often lead someone to have an abortion, he wrote:

Not having sex before marriage would solve most of these problems liste[d]. Birth control could solve all of them. Why are we trying to give women a choice when they already have one. Should an inocent [sic] child suffer for a woman's wrong decision[?] Should our government make the child pay the consequences for the woman's poor judgment[?] The woman knew the risk when she chose not to use birth control and thus must face the consequences [sic]. Since a choice is already provided, why do women need another one ...?ⁱⁱ

In a post supporting expanded use of capital punishment, Bragdon was dismissive about the possibility of executing an innocent person:

We risk dying in automobile accidents for the convenience of using a car. This practice is considered acceptable. Risking the possibility that someone might be wrongly executed is worth it to save the lives of thousands of innocent people who might be the next victims of murder.ⁱⁱⁱ

Bragdon also wrote that "the freedom that our founding fathers fought for is fading." In addition to condemning government for "interfering with the economy," he complained that "[e]quality is beginning to replace liberty as the primary principle" of our country.^{iv}

Although these writings were long ago, they are relevant to the current nomination. Judges today are still ruling on issues relating to abortion rights, capital punishment, the role of government, and fundamental questions of equality and liberty.

More directly, though, Bragdon's website expressed his views on judges. It shows that going back even before law school, he shared the agenda of those most heavily involved in driving the courts far to the right on issues such as these.

Via a link labelled "conservative judicial monitoring site," Bragdon invited his readers to visit the Free Congress Foundation's "Judicial Selection Monitoring Project." The Free Congress Foundation was founded by influential far-right leader Paul Weyrich.^v And its website invited organizations to join the "Coalition for Judicial Restraint," a who's-who of far-right

organizations of the late 1990s and early 2000s such as the Eagle Forum, the Family Research Council, WallBuilders, and the Traditional Values Coalition.^{vi}

Bragdon's record since becoming a lawyer does not indicate that he has repudiated the views he once freely expressed. Indeed, it seems more likely that those views played a role in his selection for this nomination. His Senate Judiciary Committee questionnaire acknowledges that he was a member of the Federalist Society "intermittently" between 2003 and 2017, and consistently since 2023.

As noted above, our position is that senators should not confirm any judicial nominee of President Trump. That includes David Bragdon.

Sincerely,



Marge Baker
Executive Vice President

ⁱ "Abortion," <https://web.archive.org/web/20000517061426/http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Lobby/5258/abortion.html>.

ⁱⁱ Id.

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://web.archive.org/web/19991011234329/http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Lobby/5258/deathsch2.htm>.

^{iv} "David Bragdon's Radical," <https://web.archive.org/web/19991012035125/http://www.geocities.com/capitolHill/Lobby/5258/index.html>.

^v "'I Don't Want Everybody to Vote' - The Roots of GOP Voter Suppression," People For the American Way's Right Wing Watch, Nov. 5, 2012, <https://www.peoplefor.org/rightwingwatch/post/i-dont-want-everybody-to-vote-the-roots-of-gop-voter-suppression>.

^{vi} <https://web.archive.org/web/20010513013305/http://www.4judicialrestraint.org/cjr/about.htm>.



Eleven Dupont Circle NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20036
www.afj.org | 202-822-6070

Field Offices
Dallas | Houston | Los Angeles |
San Francisco

PRESIDENT

Rachel Rossi

CHAIR

Madeline deLone

September 16, 2025

Senator Charles Grassley
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee

Senator Richard Durbin
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin,

The federal judiciary is meant to serve as a refuge for fairness and equal justice, not as an extension of corporate boardrooms or partisan advocacy networks. Yet the nomination of Susan Courtwright Rodriguez to the federal bench raises serious concerns that her career — defined by defending big corporations and narrowing workplace protections — would cultivate a federal judiciary biased towards well-funded litigants, giving them a built-in advantage to undermine labor protections and more.

Rodriguez’s professional path reveals a staunch loyalty to the interests of corporations and political movements committed to curbing hard-won rights. After beginning her career as a political appointee in the George W. Bush administration, she spent over a decade at McGuireWoods building a practice dedicated to protecting banks, payday lenders, and fintech firms from accountability when they hurt people. She dismissed the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s oversight as a “name-and-shame playbook,” defended Sprint against allegations of fraudulent billing, and represented Truist Bank against a whistleblower who alleged the company turned a blind eye to suspicious wire transfers. In each case, Rodriguez’s work reinforced the notion that financial institutions should be insulated from consequences — even at the expense of consumers, workers, and the public trust.

Her advocacy extended beyond corporate defense. In labor cases, she chose procedural technicalities over substantive justice, helping employers avoid accountability for discrimination against immigrant workers. Her advocacy consistently narrows the pathways of redress for vulnerable communities.

Outside the courtroom, Rodriguez’s affiliations are just as concerning. She served on the board of Mira Via, an organization that opposes reproductive rights and affirms life “from the moment of conception.” Her long-standing membership in the Federalist Society and the Republican National Lawyers Association ties her directly to conservative networks that have spent decades working to erode protections for reproductive freedom, LGBTQ+ equality, and civil rights. These are not passing affiliations; they are defining commitments that reveal troubling insights into how Rodriguez might approach a lifetime appointment on the bench.

Her tenure as a magistrate judge has offered more of the same. In case after case, Rodriguez has sided with institutions over individuals:

- dismissing a whistleblower’s retaliation claims despite serious health impacts
- rejecting a civil rights suit by a teenager subjected to a violent police stop
- denying relief to parents whose child’s repeated cries for help were ignored by a school counselor until hospitalization was required.

These rulings reveal a judicial philosophy that treats the real harms people suffer at the hands of corporations and the government as secondary and places cold, abstract procedural theories above the human impact of injustice.

Rodriguez’s record is not balanced. Instead, her record reveals a history of shielding corporations, narrowing individual rights, and aligning with partisan movements hostile to fundamental freedoms. A lifetime appointment would cement that worldview on the federal bench — with lasting consequences for workers, consumers, families, and communities who turn to the courts for justice.

For these reasons, Alliance for Justice strongly opposes the confirmation of Susan Courtwright Rodriguez to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of North Carolina. Her record makes clear that her loyalty lies not with the promise of equal justice under law, but with the powerful interests and ideological movements that have defined her career. America’s communities deserve better from those entrusted with a lifetime seat on the federal bench.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel Rossi".

Rachel Rossi
President, Alliance for Justice

September 15, 2025

Chairman Chuck Grassley
U.S. Senator for Iowa

Dear Senator Grassley:

On August 14, 2025, President Trump nominated Ms. Rebecca Taibleson to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Taibleson has received a ranking of “priority stop” from the Center for Judicial Renewal as she does not meet the constitutionalist standard for nomination to a federal circuit court.

We ask that you please oppose the nomination of Rebecca Taibleson and vote “no” on advancing her nomination in the Senate Judiciary Committee for the reasons included below:

Taibleson and her husband are members of or affiliated with the politically liberal Congregation Emanu-El B’ne Jeshurun (“CEEBJ”) that promotes LGBTQ+ ideologies, abortion, and leftist “Get out the Vote” organizations.

- The Taiblesons’ anniversary is listed in a July 2025 CEEBJ bulletin,¹ and they were listed as volunteers at the congregation in 2018.²
- The most prominent statement at the top of the homepage for the congregation describes it being pro “LGBTQ+;”³ the website also states that the congregation hosts guest speakers on a range of issues, including “*immigration, reproductive rights*”⁴
- Additionally, the congregation promotes its affiliation with the judicially-activist Union for Reform Judaism (“URJ”) which proudly *opposes the judicial philosophy of originalism* because it prevents their political positions on *abortion, transgenderism, guns, and separation of church and state*.⁵
 - URJ opposes the judicial philosophy of originalism: “Judge Barrett’s confirmation would place an ‘*originalist*’ majority on the Court that would likely undercut and reverse positions for which we have fought in Congress and espoused in the courts for much of the past century.” They also opposed Barrett on the ground that she had “restrictive views of existing legal rights of *transgender* individuals.”⁶
 - URJ opposed Justice Kavanaugh, arguing he would “curtail women’s *reproductive rights*, weaken workers’ rights, oppose *gun violence* prevention measures, threaten the protections of *freedom of religion* by breaking down the *separation of church and state*, challenge *environmental protections*, and undermine *voting rights*.”⁷
 - URJ promotes “*all gender identities and gender expressions*,”⁸ and “[u]rges the adoption and implementation of legislation and policies that prevent discrimination based on *gender identity and expression*.”⁹

- In 2024 and presently, CEEBJ encourages “Volunteer Opportunities” with “Get out the Vote” election partners – all of which are liberal: “Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice, Souls to the Polls, and WIVEC – Wisconsin Interfaith Voter Engagement Campaign.”¹⁰
 - Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice, a radical pro-LGBT group, states, *[W]e cannot and will not remain silent in the face of injustice towards our LGBTQ+ colleagues, congregants, family, friends, and neighbors.*¹¹ Citizens are asked to “reach out to [their] representatives,”¹² with a link to a page entitled, “*Tell the Senate to Protect Trans Health.*”¹³
 - WIVEC is hosting an October 2025 talk: “*Confronting Christian Nationalism.*”¹⁴
 - “Souls to the Polls WI” in a not-so-veiled shot at President Trump opposes “[a] whirlwind of *executive orders and policies* ... attacking Medicaid and Medicare, and threatening even more When *election season comes, you’ll know who stood behind these policies*—and who is truly looking out for your best interests.”¹⁵

It appears that the rabbi whom the Taiblesons chose to perform their wedding currently serves at a pro-LGBT congregation.¹⁶

Rabbi Lyle A. Fishman married the Taiblesons; it appears that he is the same Lyle A. Fishman who is rabbi emeritus at Ohr Kodesh Congregation,¹⁷ which is overtly pro-transgender, has a rainbow menorah on its website, an “LGBTQ Inclusion Task Force,” and states that it partners with “a leading national *LGBTQ advocacy organization* . . . to support and advocate for the *LGBTQ community.*”¹⁸

In 2019, Taibleson donated to the Milwaukee Jewish Federation (“MJF”), which promotes liberal political positions on transgenderism, marriage, life, and other issues.¹⁹

- The Jewish Community Relations Council (“JCRC”), is “a core function of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation;”²⁰ it released a “Position *Statement on LGBTQ+ Rights*” that promotes “the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, *Transgender*, Queer ... communities”²¹
- MJF also hosts a group for LGBT individuals and “allies” called “*J-Pride Milwaukee.*”²²
- The JCRC opposed constitutionalism and life when it “decie[d]” the Supreme Court’s *Dobbs* holding that there is no constitutional right to end the life of an unborn child in an abortion.²³
 - The JCRC asserted, “The JCRC supports an individual’s right to make their own *reproductive choices.*”²⁴ The statement concluded: “The JCRC will work for universal access to safe and affordable *reproductive health care* *May we all gather our strength during this painful moment*”²⁵

Bloomberg Law reported Taibleson was jointly recommended for nomination to the Seventh Circuit in 2025 by the bi-partisan judicial nominating commission of Senators Ron Johnson (R-WI) and Tammy Baldwin (D-WI).²⁶

According to iVoterGuide, Senator Baldwin is a “verified liberal.”²⁷ Bloomberg quoted that *Baldwin has warned President Trump* that “it would be ill-advised of the president to do his own [judicial selection] process when we [Senators Baldwin and Johnson] have one set up.”²⁸

Both Taibleson and her husband, Benjamin Taibleson,²⁹ have donated to Democrat politicians and/or judicial candidates.

In 2022, Taibleson donated to *ActBlue* for former *Democratic Senator Joe Manchin.*³⁰ Her husband donated to *Texans for Beto in 2024,*³¹ *Joe Biden for President,*³² *Kamala Harris* for Senate via Act Blue,³³ and other Democrat politicians.³⁴

Taibleson was listed as counsel on President Biden’s defense team in a case defending the government’s ability to forgive federal student loans.³⁵

The case was voluntarily dismissed after the Supreme Court enjoined the program.³⁶

For these reasons, we ask that you oppose the nomination of Rebecca Taibleson to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Sincerely,



Walker Wildmon
CEO, AFA Action

-
- ¹ *Ha-Kol of Congregation Emanu-El B’ne Jeshurun*, CEEBJ (July 2025), <https://container.parishesonline.com/bulletins/01/0811/20250701N.pdf>, at PDF p. 12.
- ² *Sukkahmobile Home Visits*, CEEBJ, <https://www.ceejb.org/event/sukkahmobile-tour-event.html>.
- ³ *Homepage*, CEEBJ, <https://www.ceejb.org/> (last accessed Sept. 10, 2025) (emphasis added).
- ⁴ *Social Action*, CEEBJ, <https://www.ceejb.org/get-involved/social-action>.
- ⁵ *Affiliations*, CEEBJ, <https://www.ceejb.org/get-involved/affiliations>. The congregation defines their “affiliations” as “organizations we support or upon whose support we depend.”
- ⁶ *Resolution in Opposition to the Confirmation of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the U.S. Supreme Court*, URJ, <https://urj.org/what-we-believe/resolutions/resolution-opposition-confirmation-judge-amy-coney-barrett-us-supreme> (emphasis added).
- ⁷ *Resolution in Opposition to the Confirmation of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the U.S. Supreme Court*, URJ, <https://urj.org/what-we-believe/resolutions/resolution-opposition-confirmation-judge-amy-coney-barrett-us-supreme> (emphasis added).
- ⁸ *Resolution on the Rights of Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming People*, URJ, <https://urj.org/what-we-believe/resolutions/resolution-rights-transgender-and-gender-non-conforming-people> (emphasis added).
- ⁹ *Resolution on the Rights of Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming People*, URJ, <https://urj.org/what-we-believe/resolutions/resolution-rights-transgender-and-gender-non-conforming-people> (emphasis added).
- ¹⁰ *Social Action*, CEEBJ, <https://www.ceejb.org/get-involved/social-action>; *Social Action CEEBJ*, WAYBACK MACHINE (Dec. 13, 2024), <https://web.archive.org/web/20241213142336/https://www.ceejb.org/get-involved/social-action>.
- ¹¹ *LGBTQ*, WIS. FAITH VOICES, <https://www.wifaithvoices.org/lgbtq> (emphasis added).
- ¹² *LGBTQ*, WIS. FAITH VOICES, <https://www.wifaithvoices.org/lgbtq> (emphasis added).
- ¹³ *LGBTQ*, WIS. FAITH VOICES, <https://www.wifaithvoices.org/lgbtq> (emphasis added). See *Tell the Senate to Protect Trans Health*, ADVOCATES FOR TRANS EQUALITY, <https://action.transequality.org/a/stopmedicaidcuts?emci=422022c6-ea3b-f011-a5f1-6045bda9d96b&emdi=13449a9d-cf3b-f011-a5f1-6045bda9d96b&ccid=18004490> (emphasis added).
- ¹⁴ *WIVEC*, WIS. FAITH VOICES, <https://www.wifaithvoices.org/wivec> (emphasis added). See also *WIVEC’s Extremism Series: A Faith Community Response*, WIS. FAITH VOICES, https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/rwmtn1FcTMe1pIz_m51inQ#/registration.
- ¹⁵ *Fight of Our Lives*, SOULS TO THE POLLS WIS., <https://www.soulstotheollswi.org/fightofourlives> (emphasis added).
- ¹⁶ *Krauss-Taibleson*, WIS. JEWISH CHRON. (Aug. 1, 2011), <https://www.jewishchronicle.org/2011/08/01/krauss-taibleson/>.
- ¹⁷ *Clergy*, OHR KODESH CONGREGATION, <https://www.ohrkodesh.org/clergy.html>.
- ¹⁸ *LGBTQ Inclusion*, OHR KODESH CONGREGATION, <https://www.ohrkodesh.org/lgbtq-inclusion.html> (emphasis added).
- ¹⁹ *Our Donors: 2018-19 Annual Report to the Community*, MILWAUKEE JEWISH FED’N, <https://www.milwaukeejewish.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/MJF-Annual-Report-2018-2019.pdf>, at PDF p. 23.
- ²⁰ *Jewish Community Relations Council*, MILWAUKEE JEWISH FED’N, <https://www.milwaukeejewish.org/departments/social-action/jcrc/>.
- ²¹ *Position on LGBTQ+ Rights*, MILWAUKEE JEWISH FED’N (Feb. 17, 2025), <https://www.milwaukeejewish.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/02.18.2025-LGBTQ-Rights.pdf> (emphasis added).
- ²² *J-Pride Milwaukee*, MILWAUKEE JEWISH FED’N, <https://www.milwaukeejewish.org/departments/outreach/jpride/> (emphasis added).
- ²³ *Statement: Overturning of Roe v. Wade*, MILWAUKEE JEWISH FED’N (June 27, 2022), https://www.milwaukeejewish.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Roe-v-Wade_JCRC-statement_062722.pdf.
- ²⁴ *Statement: Overturning of Roe v. Wade*, MILWAUKEE JEWISH FED’N (June 27, 2022), https://www.milwaukeejewish.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Roe-v-Wade_JCRC-statement_062722.pdf (emphasis added).
- ²⁵ *Statement: Overturning of Roe v. Wade*, MILWAUKEE JEWISH FED’N (June 27, 2022), https://www.milwaukeejewish.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Roe-v-Wade_JCRC-statement_062722.pdf (emphasis added).

-
- ²⁶ Tiana Headly, *Wisconsin Senators Attempt Bipartisan Judicial Pick with Trump*, BLOOMBERG L. (July 28, 2025), <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/us-law-week/wisconsin-senators-attempt-bipartisan-judicial-pick-with-trump>.
- ²⁷ Tammy Baldwin, IVOTERGUIDE, <https://ivoterguide.com/candidate/2569/race/15962/election/1251>.
- ²⁸ Tiana Headly, *Wisconsin Senators Attempt Bipartisan Judicial Pick with Trump*, BLOOMBERG L. (July 28, 2025), <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/us-law-week/wisconsin-senators-attempt-bipartisan-judicial-pick-with-trump>.
- ²⁹ Krauss-Taibleson, WIS. JEWISH CHRON. (Aug. 1, 2011), <https://www.jewishchronicle.org/2011/08/01/krauss-taibleson/>.
- ³⁰ *Individual Contributions: Rebecca Taibleson*, FEC, https://www.fec.gov/data/receipts/individual-contributions/?contributor_name=rebecca+taibleson (last accessed Sept. 11, 2025).
- ³¹ *Specific-Purpose Committee Campaign Finance Report*, https://prd.tecprd.ethicsefile.com/public/cf/2024/pdfs/ScrubbedReport_100964555.PDF, at PDF p. 6.
- ³² *Donor Lookup: Benjamin Taibleson*, OPEN SECRETS, <https://www.opensecrets.org/donor-lookup/results?name=benjamin+taibleson> (last accessed Sept. 11, 2025).
- ³³ *Individual Contributions: Benjamin Taibleson*, FEC, https://www.fec.gov/data/receipts/individual-contributions/?contributor_name=benjamin+taibleson (last accessed Sept. 11, 2025).
- ³⁴ *Donor Lookup: Benjamin Taibleson*, OPEN SECRETS, <https://www.opensecrets.org/donor-lookup/results?name=benjamin+taibleson> (last accessed Sept. 11, 2025).
- ³⁵ *Brown Cnty. Taxpayers Ass'n v. Biden*, 2022 WL 5242626, <https://dockets.justia.com/docket/circuit-courts/ca7/22-2794>.
- ³⁶ *Brown Cnty. Taxpayers Ass'n v. Biden*, WILL, <https://will-law.org/brown-county-taxpayers-association-v-biden/>.

DRAFT



Eleven Dupont Circle NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20036
www.afj.org | 202-822-6070

Field Offices
Dallas | Houston | Los Angeles |
San Francisco

PRESIDENT

Rachel Rossi

CHAIR

Madeline deLone

September 16, 2025

Senator Charles Grassley
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee

Senator Richard Durbin
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin,

The nomination of Rebecca Taibleson to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit raises profound concerns about whether the federal judiciary will continue to safeguard the rights of all people or become a staging ground for ideological projects. Her career clearly demonstrates that she has repeatedly aligned herself with far-right movements, championed originalist theories that erode fundamental freedoms, and advanced legal arguments that shield powerful actors at the expense of others.

Throughout her work as a corporate lawyer, prosecutor, and appellate advocate, Taibleson has shown a troubling pattern of fighting to limit victims' access to justice, and her record reveals a consistent hostility to remedies for victims of abuse, violence, and corporate negligence:

- Taibleson argued that Dow Chemical should not face accountability for exposing communities to radioactive waste, dismissing the jury's multimillion-dollar award to residents harmed by the company's negligence.
- Taibleson argued in a Supreme Court brief that a person shot by police is not "seized" under the Fourth Amendment if they manage to flee, a position rejected by the Supreme Court.
- Taibleson argued against accountability under the Torture Victim Protection Act for a U.S. citizen who alleged he was unlawfully detained and tortured abroad.

Her arguments strike at the core of constitutional freedoms. By defending Trump's decision to block critics on Twitter, Taibleson further validated arguments that the president has the authority to silence dissent in digital public forums — a dangerous precedent that Trump himself has only escalated in increasingly authoritarian ways. If confirmed, how can the public trust her to safeguard free expression in similarly situated cases moving forward?

Taibleson's public advocacy for and her loyalty to Justice Brett Kavanaugh, whom she clerked for, has gone beyond professional respect. She not only defended him, she testified in his support during his confirmation hearings even after credible allegations of sexual assault were raised, dismissing Dr. Christine Blasey Ford's testimony in favor of her own proximity to Kavanaugh.

This episode illustrates her willingness to privilege institutional power and partisan loyalty over the lived experiences of women — a deeply troubling lens for someone entrusted with administering equal justice under law.

Taibleson’s record demonstrates that her guiding philosophy is not one of neutrality, but of allegiance to far-right ideologies increasingly supported by Trump. A lifetime appointment would empower her to enshrine those positions into binding precedent for decades to come.

For these reasons, Alliance for Justice strongly opposes the confirmation of Rebecca Taibleson to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. The federal judiciary demands judges whose commitment to fairness, equality, and the Constitution is steadfast. Taibleson’s record shows she cannot meet that standard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel Rossi".

Rachel Rossi
President, Alliance for Justice

(<https://conservativeactionproject.com>)

[HOME](#) / [ABOUT](#) /

Search



MEMOS

Conservatives Oppose the Nomination of Rebecca Taibleson to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

(<https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?>

[u=https%3A%2F%2Fconservativeactionproject.com%2Fconservatives-text=Hey%2C+check+out+this+cool+site+I+oppose-the-nomination-of-rebecca-taibleson-to-the-u-s-court-of-appeals-for-the-seventh-circuit%2F](https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fconservativeactionproject.com%2Fconservatives-text=Hey%2C+check+out+this+cool+site+I+oppose-the-nomination-of-rebecca-taibleson-to-the-u-s-court-of-appeals-for-the-seventh-circuit%2F))

The fact that liberal Wisconsin Senator Tammy Baldwin recommended Taibleson to the President and supports her nomination gives us further pause. There are highly credentialed, solid conservative candidates in Wisconsin who unsurprisingly did not make Senator Baldwin's list. Given that the blue slip does not apply to court of appeals nominees, the President would be free to select one of the proven conservative warriors who applied. More than ever, protecting our constitutional rights requires men and women on the federal bench who are committed to the original meaning of the Constitution and upholding the rule of law. They must also have the courage to make principled decisions even when the outcome is unpopular. Taibleson's donation and work history raise significant questions about her commitment to the judicial philosophy espoused by the Trump administration.

If confirmed, Taibleson, would receive life-time tenure on an influential court, only one step below the U.S. Supreme Court. Given our commitment to the faithful interpretation of the laws and Constitution, as well as concerns about how it might damage the legacy of President Trump, we oppose this nomination.

The Honorable J. Kenneth Blackwell

Chairman, Conservative Action Project
President, Council for National Policy

Kelly J. Shackelford, Esq.

President, CEO & Chief Counsel
First Liberty Institute

The Honorable Jim DeMint

Chairman, Conservative Partnership Institute
Member, US Senate (SC 2005-2013)

The Honorable Tony Perkins

President
Family Research Council

Penny Y. Nance

President & CEO
Concerned Women for America

Thomas H. Jones

Founder
American Accountability Foundation

The Honorable Becky Norton Dunlop

White House Advisor
President Ronald Reagan (1981-1985)

Bob Carlstrom

President
The Carlstrom Group

Eric Teetsel

Chief Executive Officer
Center for Renewing America

The Honorable Bob McEwen

U.S. House of Representatives
Former Member, Ohio

Donald T. Eason

President
Center for Urban Renewal and Education (CURE)

Lori Roman

President
ACRU Action Fund

Lt. Gen. William G. Boykin (F et.)

Executive Vice President
(<https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fconservativeactionproject.com%2Fconservatives-oppose-the-nomination-of-rebecca-taibleson-to-the-u-s-court-of-appeals-for-the-seventh-circuit%2F>)
Family Research Council

Chad Connelly

Founder and President
Faith Wins
(<https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fconservativeactionproject.com%2Fconservatives-oppose-the-nomination-of-rebecca-taibleson-to-the-u-s-court-of-appeals-for-the-seventh-circuit%2F>)

<https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fconservativeactionproject.com%2Fconservatives-oppose-the-nomination-of-rebecca-taibleson-to-the-u-s-court-of-appeals-for-the-seventh-circuit%2F> 17 <https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fconservativeactionproject.com%2Fconservatives-oppose-the-nomination-of-rebecca-taibleson-to-the-u-s-court-of-appeals-for-the-seventh-circuit%2F>

Marty Dannenfeler

Vice President for Government Relations and Coalitions
Center for Urban Renewal and Education (CURE)

Cleta Mitchell, Esq.

Senior Legal Fellow
Conservative Partnership Institute

Rebecca Weber

CEO
Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC)

Ed Corrigan

Vice Chairman, Conservative Action Project
President & CEO, Conservative Partnership Institute

Wesley Denton

Chief Operating Officer
Conservative Partnership Institute (CPI)

William L. Walton

The Bill Walton Show
Vice Chairman, CPAC

Myron Ebell

Chairman
American Lands Council

David N. Bossie

President
Citizens United

Craig Shirley

Reagan and Trump Biographer
Presidential Historian

Karen England

President
Capitol Resource Institute

John Stemberger

President
Liberty Counsel Action

Judson Phillips

Founder
Tea Party Nation

Jim Pfaff

President
The Conservative Caucus

The Honorable Craig DeRoche

President & CEO
Family Policy Alliance

The Honorable George K. Rasley Jr.

Managing Editor
ConservativeHQ.com

Bishop E.W. Jackson Sr.

Founder and President
STAND Foundation, Inc.

Floyd G. Brown

President
American Media Council

Kristen A. Ullman

President
Eagle Forum

C. Preston Noell III

President.
Tradition, Family, Property, Inc.
(<https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fconservativeactionproject.com%2Fconservatives-text=Hey%2C+check+out+this+cool+site+I+oppose-the-nomination-of-rebecca-taibleson-to-the-u-s-court-of-appeals-for-the-seventh-circuit%2F>)

Tim Throckmorton

President
Lifepointe Ministries

(<https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fconservativeactionproject.com%2Fconservatives-text=Hey%2C+check+out+this+cool+site+I+oppose-the-nomination-of-rebecca-taibleson-to-the-u-s-court-of-appeals-for-the-seventh-circuit%2F>)

Seton Motley

President
Less Government

Allen J. Hebert

Stephen Moxley

President
SD Moxley LLC

Debbie Wuthnow

President
IVoterGuide.com

Tom DeWeese

President
American Policy Center

Tim Macy

Chairman
Gun Owners of America

Ron Pearson

President
Pearson & Pipkin Inc

Eunie Smith

President
Eagle Forum of Alabama

Saulius "Saul" Anuzis

President
60 Plus Association

Lee Beaman

CEO
Beaman Ventures

Dr. Paige Patterson

President
Sandy Creek Foundation

The Honorable Richard D. Hayes

State Representative
State of Texas

Dr. OJ Oleka

Chief Executive Officer
State Financial Officers Foundation

Elaine Donnelly

President
Center for Military Readiness

The Honorable Mike Wolfe

Candidate for Texas State Rep., Dist. 128
Mike Wolfe Campaign

William P. Mills, III

President
MPW Enterprises

Jack Park

Conservative Activist and Donor

James L. Martin

Founder/Chairman
60 Plus Association

Jerry Maston

Sr. Pastor
River of Life Church, Founder of Leadership Always

([https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?](https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fconservativeactionproject.com%2Fconservatives-text=Hey%2C+check+out+this+cool+site+I+oppose-the-nomination-of-rebecca-taibleson-to-the-u-s-court-of-appeals-for-the-seventh-circuit%2F)

[u=https%3A%2F%2Fconservativeactionproject.com%2Fconservatives-text=Hey%2C+check+out+this+cool+site+I+oppose-the-nomination-of-rebecca-taibleson-to-the-u-s-court-of-appeals-for-the-seventh-circuit%2F](https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fconservativeactionproject.com%2Fconservatives-text=Hey%2C+check+out+this+cool+site+I+oppose-the-nomination-of-rebecca-taibleson-to-the-u-s-court-of-appeals-for-the-seventh-circuit%2F))

[DONATE \(https://direct.cornerstone.cc/Conservative+Action+Project\)](https://direct.cornerstone.cc/Conservative+Action+Project)

[More Memos \(http://conservativeactionproject.com/memos/\)](http://conservativeactionproject.com/memos/)



COPYRIGHT © 2023 CAP. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

<https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fconservativeactionproject.com%2Fconservatives-text=Hey%2C+check+out+this+cool+site+I+oppose-the-nomination-of-rebecca-taibleson-to-the-u-s-court-of-appeals-for-the-seventh-circuit%2F>