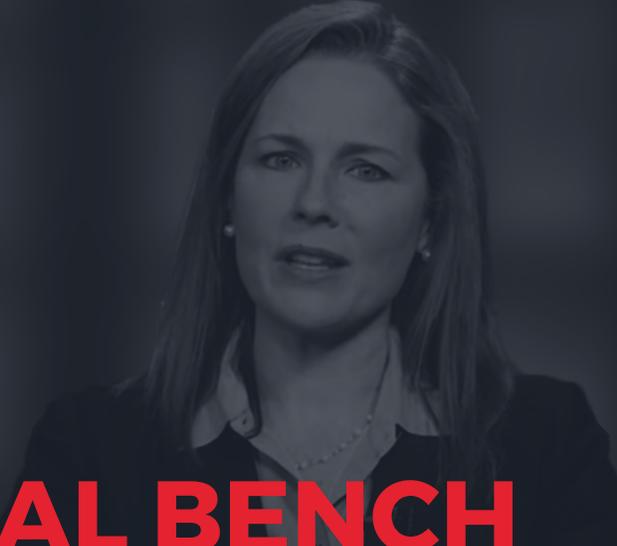


A grayscale portrait of Amy Coney Barrett, a woman with long hair, wearing a dark jacket over a light-colored collared shirt and a necklace. The image is semi-transparent and serves as a background for the text.

AMY CONEY BARRETT ACTION RESOURCES



WRONG FOR THE FEDERAL BENCH

ABOUT AMY CONEY BARRETT

Amy Coney Barrett is a professor at Notre Dame Law School whom Donald Trump has nominated to a seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. She has taken dangerous positions on how judges should approach the law and the Constitution.

KEY WRITINGS

Barrett believes it is right for judges to put their personal faith and beliefs ahead of the law and the Constitution. In an article entitled “Catholic Judges in Capital Cases,” she criticized Justice William Brennan’s statement about his Catholicism, in which he said that he took an oath to uphold the law, and that his oath comes before his religious duties. Barrett wrote that she did: “not defend this position as the proper response for a Catholic judge to take with respect to abortion or the death penalty.” Instead, Barrett argued, a judge who personally disagrees with a law or the Constitution should refuse to apply it by recusing herself from the case. Barrett has also written that a judge does not have to follow precedent if she believes a past case was wrongly decided.

Barrett is a threat to women’s reproductive rights. She was cited in a Notre Dame publication for “her own conviction that life begins at conception.” She has criticized the Supreme Court’s decision in *Roe v. Wade*, stating that the Supreme Court “creat[ed] ... a framework of abortion on demand” that “ignited a national controversy.” Because she has written that judges should be bound by their religious faith, not the law, and because she doesn’t believe judges have to follow precedent, Barrett poses a direct threat to precedents such as *Roe* that form a basis for enforcing women’s reproductive rights.

Barrett takes an extreme view of how judges should interpret the law and the Constitution. She believes in a strict form of “originalism” in interpreting the Constitution and laws. This raises questions about how she would view important cases that have advanced basic civil rights for people of color, women, and LGBTQ Americans.

SOURCE: AFJ

JUDGES MATTER

WHY COURTS
MATTER

YOUR SENATOR
MATTERS

BARRETT: WRONG
FOR THE BENCH

THE JUDGES
WE WANT

DON'T LET TRUMP TAKE OVER A KEY LINE OF DEFENSE: OUR COURTS

- Lower federal courts are often the last bastions of protection for the rights of people without wealth, power, or privilege. And now, they are an important line of defense against Trump's radical agenda.
- Federal courts at all levels decide cases on issues vital to us all of us, including civil liberties, clean air, privacy, reproductive rights and corporate power.
- Because the Supreme Court hears around only 80 cases a year, the lower courts play a major and often-overlooked role in helping to define and protect our constitutional rights for generations.
- Right now, Donald Trump has more than 115 federal court seats to fill. That gives him the chance to put his stamp on our justice system for decades to come, unless we fight back against ultraconservative nominees.

WHY COURTS
MATTER

YOUR SENATOR
MATTERS

BARRETT: WRONG
FOR THE BENCH

THE JUDGES
WE WANT

EVERY VOTE MATTERS

- Senators have a responsibility to closely scrutinize the record of every individual nominated to the federal bench by the president, and reject those who are unqualified.
- Senators from nominees' home states play an even bigger role. Both senators have the choice to return or withhold blue slips, a statement of approval and support for a judicial candidate. Traditionally, nominees have not moved forward if both home state senators have not turned in their blue slips.
- Each nomination starts with a hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee. If the nominee is approved by the committee, then the whole Senate gets to vote on the nomination. The bottom line? Every senator gets a voice on judicial nominees.

WHY COURTS
MATTER

YOUR SENATOR
MATTERS

BARRETT: WRONG
FOR THE BENCH

THE JUDGES
WE WANT

TRUMP'S JUDICIAL NOMINEES SO FAR FIT A DISTURBING PATTERN.

- President Trump nominated Amy Coney Barrett because he believes that she, like other Trump nominees, would be a rubber stamp for his radical agenda, which threatens women, workers, LGBTQ people, immigrants, and people of color.
- But Barrett's views are even more dangerous than most. As a law professor, she's written that judges have a duty to put their religious faith ahead of the law and the Constitution when deciding how to act on cases.
- That's not what we believe in the United States of America, and a person with these views does not belong on the federal bench.

WHY COURTS
MATTER

YOUR SENATOR
MATTERS

BARRETT: WRONG
FOR THE BENCH

THE JUDGES
WE WANT

WE NEED JUDGES THAT WILL PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF EVERYDAY PEOPLE

- We want Supreme Court and lower court judges who will be an independent check on abuses of power, and who understand the Constitution protects all of us - not just the wealthy and powerful.
- We want judges who will not turn back the clock on rights for women, workers, LGBTQ people, and people of color, or roll back protections that keep our communities healthy and environment clean.
- We want judges who will defend core constitutional values of liberty, equality, and justice for all.

TAKE ACTION

CONTACT YOUR SENATOR

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

Find your senators and call, write or set up a meeting with them.

**CONTACT
YOUR SENATORS**

Start a call-in, petition, or letter drive, and ask others to join your meeting with your senator(s)

**MOBILIZE
YOUR NETWORK**

Write a letter to the editor or an op-ed in your local paper. Use your personal network and build the movement online with social media. Tweet at your senators.

**AMPLIFY
YOUR VOICE**

Hold a panel, an event or a visibility action to show others how the judicial branch affects them and what they can do to take action.

**EDUCATE
YOUR COMMUNITY**

GET CONNECTED TO YOUR SENATOR AT **JUSTICEACTIONHUB.ORG**

TELL YOUR SENATOR: My name is [name], and I'm a constituent from [city]. I'm calling because I am deeply concerned about Amy Coney Barrett, Donald Trump's nominee for the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Barrett has extreme views that would threaten women's rights, LGBTQ rights, and the rights of many other communities. I am urging Senator X to Vote No on Barrett, and I will be watching to make sure he/she does. Thank you.

STAY ON THEIR RADAR

Call your senators. Get 10 friends to call. Ask them to ask 10 friends to call. Then call again.

CALL YOUR SENATORS

Identify people in your network who are particularly influential - political donors, community and business leaders, state elected officials - and ask them to call.

**IDENTIFY
INFLUENCERS**

Schedule appointments or drop in to district offices. Set up a phone call with your senator while they're in DC.

**SCHEDULE
APPOINTMENTS**

Attend town halls, public appearances, and events and voice your concerns about Barrett.

**SHOWING UP
MATTERS**

TAKE ACTION MOBILIZE YOUR NETWORK

WHAT YOUR ORGANIZATION CAN DO

Send a letter to and call Senate Judiciary Committee members and other senators your organization is close to.

**CONTACT
SENATORS DIRECTLY**

Send an action alert to your list urging them to call, write, or otherwise contact their senator(s) demanding that they reject Amy Coney Barrett for the Seventh Circuit.

**MOBILIZE
YOUR NETWORK**

Write a press release or letter to the editor in local, state, and national publications about the importance of future judicial nominations. Amplify your organization's position on social media.

**AMPLIFY YOUR
ORGANIZATION'S VOICE**

Host a panel discussion, a press event, or a visibility action on the importance of the judiciary in protecting our rights.

**EDUCATE AND
MOBILIZE THE PUBLIC**

SENATORS ARE ELECTED TO REPRESENT THEIR CONSTITUENTS, and pay attention to the messages they're receiving on an issue. In just the first few months of 2017, mass mobilizations of phone calls, rallies, demonstrations and other events have had a major impact on the public's awareness of critical issues and nominations. It takes all of us coming together, activating our networks and organizations, to make the difference.

Dear friends,

It's happening: Donald Trump and his administration are packing our courts with hard-right, ideological judges who will put our hard-won rights and freedoms at risk. Recent nominee Amy Coney Barrett says judges should put their faith above the law in determining how to act on critical issues like abortion access. Her extreme view of how judges should interpret the law and the Constitution and her disregard for precedent would threaten basic civil rights for people of color, women, and LGBTQ Americans, and laws that protect us all.

Call and tell your senators: Amy Coney Barrett is wrong for the federal bench.

Our courts are our last line of defense against an administration putting real people's lives at risk. We can't let them become just another rubber stamp for Trump's radical, dangerous agenda and attacks on our rights and communities.

It's up to us to stand up for our courts. Call your senators today and tell them: Vote no on Amy Coney Barrett.

SAMPLE ACTION ALERT

TAKE ACTION AMPLIFY YOUR VOICE

SENATORS NEEDS TO HEAR FROM YOUR ORGANIZATION

Contacting senators directly is one of the most important ways to highlight the public movement to stop Barrett and make a difference. In addition to mobilizing your network and having your organization's supporters call and write their senators, your organization should send a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee Leadership detailing your organization's concerns with Amy Coney Barrett's record and potential impact on the issues your organization champions. You can email the letter to Chairman Chuck Grassley's office at Mike_Davis@judiciary-rep.senate.gov and Ranking Member Dianne Feinstein at info@judiciary-dem.senate.gov.

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

As an organization representing [YOUR CONSTITUENCY, ISSUE, or NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS], we write in opposition to the nomination of Amy Coney Barrett for a seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

[Your customized paragraphs on why your group opposes Barrett, based on her record. You can find detailed information on her record in our sister organization AFJ's research [report](#).]

We urge you to reject this nomination and to use your leadership of the Senate Judiciary Committee to ensure bipartisan consultation on judicial nominations in the future, as well as the confirmation of qualified individuals who will ensure that critical legal rights and protections are upheld for all Americans.

Sincerely,
Your Organization
Contact information

SAMPLE ORGANIZATIONAL LETTER

QUESTIONS FOR SENATORS ABOUT BARRETT

SENATORS WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. Throughout the year, senators hold events in their home states, hold town halls online and on the phone, and ask for constituent input on social media. Use these opportunities to ask your senators:

1

IN OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM, WE COUNT ON JUDGES TO TAKE AN OATH TO UPHOLD THE CONSTITUTION AND TO PUT THE LAW AND THE CONSTITUTION AHEAD OF THEIR PERSONAL BELIEFS.

Amy Coney Barrett has said that she thinks a judge can put their religion first; would you support a judicial nominee who takes this position?

JUDGES ON OUR FEDERAL COURTS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE BOUND BY PRECEDENT.

Amy Coney Barrett says a judge doesn't have to follow precedent if she thinks a past case was wrongly decided. Would you support a judicial nominee who thinks judges should be allowed to substitute their own judgment for precedent?

2

3

AMY CONEY BARRETT HAS BEEN CRITICAL OF THE SUPREME COURT'S DECISION IN *ROE V. WADE*.

We know that Donald Trump has made opposition to women's reproductive rights an important criterion in the selection of judicial nominees. Do you believe that Barrett would be a threat to women's reproductive rights and if so, will you oppose her confirmation?

AMY CONEY BARRETT BELIEVES IN AN EXTREME FORM OF CONSTITUTIONAL INTERPRETATION THAT RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER SHE THINKS THE CONSTITUTION PROTECTS LGBTQ RIGHTS, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND WOMEN.

How will you ensure that men and women nominated for the federal bench will protect the rights of all our communities? How will you ensure that Barrett would do so, and if you are not satisfied that she will, will you oppose her confirmation?

4

BE SURE TO EDUCATE YOURSELF ABOUT YOUR SENATOR'S POSITION AND TAILOR YOUR QUESTIONS.

If your senator has not taken a position on Barrett's nomination, you might end your questions by asking, "Will you thoroughly review Barrett's record, and ensure that she will protect the rights of your constituents?"

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

TIPS FOR WRITING A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Before submitting your piece, check your paper's guidelines on length. Use our talking points to get your point across concisely but remember to connect these issues to your local area. Find a way to explain how judicial nominations will affect your community for decades to come.

**BE CLEAR, TIMELY,
AND CONCISE**

While it is important to center your piece around accountability, it is also important to highlight the next steps. Talk about the importance of protecting our lower federal courts in order to ensure that our judicial branch protects all of us.

**ASKS AND
CALLS TO ACTION**

Try your local or school paper first but also reach out to other publications. This is a very important issue and the media will be looking for local perspectives. You can also maximize your efforts by having others in your community write letters to the same papers. Even if they are not printed, this will let editors know that this issue matters.

**AMPLIFY
YOUR IMPACT**

Check your local newspaper so you can respond to a recent article or a recent event in your area. When submitting your piece, make sure you refer to the article specifically by name and date. This will make it much more likely that your piece is published.

**BE
CURRENT**

IF YOUR LETTER IS PRINTED, SEND A COPY TO YOUR SENATORS' OFFICES.

Senators often search for the issues that their constituents care about in these local papers. Make sure that you bring your piece to your next meeting or send their local aides a copy. This will ensure that your message reaches them.