



JEFF MATEER

ACTION RESOURCES



ALLIANCE^{FOR}**JUSTICE**
ACTION CAMPAIGN



WRONG FOR THE FEDERAL BENCH

ABOUT JEFF MATEER

President Donald Trump has nominated Jeff Mateer for a seat on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas. Mateer is currently the first assistant attorney general of Texas, and a former general counsel and executive vice president of the ultraconservative First Liberty Institute. Mateer has made hostile and dangerous comments about LGBTQ people, many denigrating LGBTQ children, comments Senator Cornyn indicated Mateer failed to disclose. He has also attacked women's rights, claimed that there is no constitutional basis for the separation of church and state, compared Obamacare provisions with the oppression of Nazi Germany, and more. In short, Mateer has no place on the federal bench.

KEY POINTS

Mateer said that transgender children were part of "Satan's plan." In a 2015 speech entitled "The Church and Homosexuality," Mateer made numerous anti-LGBTQ comments. He accused the LGBTQ community of unleashing a flurry of "legal attacks" on the country, argued that marriage equality would catapult us into "a time where debauchery rules," and said that transgender children were proof of "how Satan's plan is working."

Mateer supported "conversion therapy." In an interview in November 2015 with Kevin Swanson, a pastor who preaches that the Bible calls for LGBTQ people to be put to death, Mateer lamented the fact that states were outlawing the dangerous and disproven practice of gay conversion therapy.

Mateer has worked to curtail women's reproductive rights. In his work with the First Liberty Institute, Mateer represented four "crisis pregnancy centers." Crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs) are run by ultraconservative, anti-choice groups and advertise themselves as providing "pregnancy support" services – although they offer only a small range of services – and their true purpose is to actively discourage women from seeking abortions, frequently using misleading and false information. In this case, these four CPCs claimed that their right to free speech and religious exercise and expression had been violated when an Austin, TX ordinance required them to post signage stating they don't provide medical services. When a court found the ordinance too vague to be enforced, Mateer celebrated the decision as "a firm warning sent to any other governments inclined to similarly violate religious liberty rights in the future."

Mateer argues that the Constitution does not call for the separation of church and state. In multiple speeches to children, Mateer has offered a \$100 bill to the first student "who can cite me the provision of the Constitution that guarantees the separation of church and state." He claims it's "not there," and that the First Amendment is "to protect us from government, not to cause government to persecute us because of our religious beliefs." Mateer plainly doesn't believe that the separation of church and state is a key principle of our Constitution.

Mateer has used offensive and inflammatory rhetoric in criticizing LGBTQ rights. Commenting on efforts by the government to try to ensure equal rights for LGBTQ Americans, Mateer also invoked Nazi Germany, Stalinist Russia, and Maoist China in describing the treatment of Christians in the United States.

JUDGES MATTER

WHY COURTS MATTER

YOUR SENATOR MATTERS

MATEER: 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

MATEER: 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

MATEER: WRONG FOR THE BENCH

THE JUDGES WE WANT

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

- President Trump nominated Jeff Mateer because he believes that he, like other Trump nominees, will be a rubber stamp for his radical agenda, which threatens women, workers, LGBTQ people, immigrants, and people of color.
- Mateer has been more outspoken about his dangerous views than most. Mateer has given speeches attacking LGBTQ Americans and their rights, bragged about discriminating against LGBTQ people, lamented the banning of conversion therapy, defended anti-choice "crisis pregnancy centers," and argued there is no constitutional basis for the separation of church and state.
- Mateer's comments reflect a lack of respect for the rights and dignity of other people. A person with Mateer's views does not belong on the federal bench.
- Mateer tried to hide his most offensive statements from the Senate and the American people.

WHY COURTS MATTER

YOUR SENATOR MATTERS

MATEER: 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

AFJAC.ORG

TELL YOUR SENATOR: My name is [name], and I'm a constituent from [city]. I'm calling because I'm deeply concerned about Jeff Mateer, Donald Trump's nominee to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas. Mateer has extreme views that would threaten LGBTQ rights and the rights of many other communities. I am urging Senator [X] to call for Mateer's nomination to be withdrawn, 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 Mateer.

**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. Circulate a petition calling for Mateer's withdrawal and deliver the signatures to your senators.

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 Jeff Mateer for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas.

MOBILIZE YOUR NETWORK

Write a press release or letter to the editor in local, state, and national publications about the importance of 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,

Let's be clear: Jeff Mateer has no place on the federal bench. Nominated for a seat on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, Jeff Mateer has a history of making disgusting, dangerous comments attacking the LGBTQ community. He's warned that marriage equality puts us back "in a time when debauchery rules." He's said that transgender children are part of "Satan's plan." He's represented extreme, anti-abortion "crisis pregnancy centers." He's bragged about discriminating against LGBTQ people.

Call and tell your senators: Jeff Mateer's nomination must be withdrawn.

Mateer's views are hostile and harmful. Don't let Donald Trump fill the judiciary with judges who attack the rights and dignity of others.

It's up to us to stand up for our courts. Call your senators today and tell them: Jeff Mateer's nomination must be withdrawn.

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 Mateer 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 Jeff Mateer'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

As an organization representing [YOUR CONSTITUENCY, ISSUE, or NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS] we write to urge you to call for the withdrawal of the nomination of Jeff Mateer for a seat on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas.

Mateer has made public comments about fellow Americans that are breathtaking in their ignorance and hostility. In a speech that was recorded and has been widely circulated, he is seen and heard referring to transgender children as part of "Satan's Plan." He has referred to marriage equality as "disgusting" and akin to bestiality. He has shown support for the horrific and dangerous practice of "conversion therapy," in which tactics of intimidation and fear are employed against LGBTQ individuals, often young people, in an attempt to change their sexual orientation or gender identity.

On another front, he has attacked the reproductive rights of women, criticizing the contraceptive coverage requirements of Obamacare by invoking the oppressive regime of Nazi Germany. Not only does this position pose a threat to women's health, but such incendiary rhetoric is irresponsible and highly unsuitable for a potential federal judge.

An individual who so blatantly attacks the rights and dignity of others is an unfit and frankly dangerous choice for the federal bench. A federal judge must inspire confidence that all who come before him or her will be treated with respect and that even-handed, unbiased justice will be dispensed. Jeff Mateer does not and cannot inspire that confidence.

As a result, it is incumbent upon the White House to withdraw Mateer's nomination at once and to put forward the name of another individual for this seat. We call upon you to use your leadership of the Senate Judiciary Committee to ensure that Mateer's nomination does not go forward, and that only individuals who will uphold critical legal rights and protections for all Americans will be allowed to serve on the federal bench.

Sincerely,
Your Organization
Contact information

SAMPLE ORGANIZATIONAL LETTER

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.

TAKE ACTION WRITE YOUR LETTER

SAMPLE LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor,

President Trump has submitted to the Senate the nomination of Jeff Mateer, Texas's first assistant attorney general, to the federal bench. Senators must not allow this nomination to go forward.

Throughout his career, Mateer has engaged in ignorant, inflammatory, hateful speech that has no place on the federal bench. He has publicly referred to transgender children as part of "Satan's plan." He has called marriage equality "disgusting" and akin to bestiality. In criticizing the contraceptive coverage requirements of Obamacare, he has invoked the oppressive regime of Nazi Germany. The list goes on and on.

An individual who expresses such unbridled hostility toward fellow Americans cannot be given a position that calls for even-handed administration of justice. Sen. Cornyn has stated he did not know about all of Mateer's comments before his name was put forward, but it's not too late to stop a further egregious error from being made. Mateer's nomination must be immediately withdrawn and replaced with that of a Texan who can be trusted to uphold the rights of all.

Sincerely,
Signature and contact information here

SAMPLE LETTER TO THE EDITOR

TAKE ACTION USING SOCIAL MEDIA

TIPS FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

Look up your senators' social media handles. Tag them in relevant posts, and tweet directly at them. Encourage your friends and followers to do the same.

TAG YOUR SENATORS

Identify the key hashtags for your issue, like #CourtsMatter and #StopMateer. Tie into hashtags that trend weekly, and keep an eye out for opportunities to engage with new ones.

KNOW YOUR HASHTAGS

Engage with other users talking about your issue by retweeting, liking, and sharing their content. Ask your followers to retweet and share your posts if they agree.

RETWEET, LIKE, AND SHARE

Ask questions, make polls, and post other content that encourages your followers to engage with you and the issue. Send out new resources that will help people learn more about the courts.

ENGAGE YOUR AUDIENCE

SOCIAL MEDIA CAN BE A POWERFUL TOOL. Social media can help you use your network to build the movement for fair courts. Adding your voice to the conversation, and using it to amplify the other actions you're taking, can help hold your senator accountable.

- Blatant bigotry is blatantly disqualifying for the federal bench. #StopMateer <http://bit.ly/2gyLsKG>
- Bigotry has no place in our federal courts. Neither does Jeff Mateer. #StopMateer #Courtsmatter <http://cnn.it/2yACC4S>
- Mateer's career is built on attacking LGBTQ rights. His nomination to federal bench is unconscionable. #StopMateer
- Trump court pick Jeff Mateer literally called trans kids part of "Satan's plan." Unacceptable. #StopMateer
- "On the basis of sexual orientation, we discriminate" - Trump court pick Jeff Mateer. #StopMateer

SAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

TAKE ACTION AMPLIFY OTHERS' VOICE

YOU'RE NOT ALONE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST MATEER

Organizations around the nation are joining the fight to keep Jeff Mateer off the federal bench. Below is a list of resources you can use to amplify your voice and help #StopMateer.

VIDEOS

Alliance for Justice video: <http://bit.ly/mateervideo>

Human Rights Campaign video: <http://bit.ly/2zJjss5>

People for the American Way video: <http://bit.ly/2zJK2kH>

POSTS AND NEWS ARTICLES

"The 7 Most Alarming Statements by Trump's Anti-LGBT Judicial Nominee," *American Progress*: <http://bit.ly/2gwGDNB>

"Bigotry Is as Bigotry Does: Another Trump judicial nominee who appears completely unvetted," *Esquire*: <http://bit.ly/2gvWDj9>

"Jeff Mateer And The 'Kill The Gays' Conference," *People for the American Way*: <http://bit.ly/2yGupu4>

"Trump judicial nominee: I discriminate against gay people, and trans kids are part of 'Satan's plan,'" *Vox*: <http://bit.ly/2gvLsKG>

LETTERS

Lambda Legal letter from LGBT groups calling for the withdrawal of Mateer's nomination: <http://bit.ly/2zwTvuzv>

National Center for Transgender Equality letter from parents of transgender children: <http://bit.ly/2gwPxL3>

PETITIONS

Alliance for Justice Action Campaign Petition: <http://bit.ly/2leMw7y>

National Council of Jewish Women petition: <http://bit.ly/2z0WMWT>

People for the American Way petition: <http://bit.ly/2zKObXw>

#STOPMATEER RESOURCES