

May 17, 2019

Dear Senator,

On behalf of Alliance for Justice (AFJ), a national association representing 130 groups committed to equal justice, I write to oppose the confirmation of Stephen Clark to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri. Nothing in his record suggests he will be a fair-minded unbiased jurist.

Clark is an opponent of access to reproductive rights and abortion care. His name appears on a newsletter that declares “Roe v. Wade gave doctors a license to kill unborn children. Like the Dred Scott decision, Roe is BAD law.”

Clark has also advanced troubling views on contraception. Clark submitted a brief arguing that the Affordable Care Act’s contraceptive-coverage policy is unlawful because the government did not consider “significantly increased cancer and other health risks associated with hormonal contraceptives.” Clark inaccurately declares that the contraceptive-coverage policy “works directly against women’s health” and “coerc[es] religiously objecting employers to cover drugs that significantly increase risks to women’s health[.]” Additionally, the brief cites Dr. Angela LanFranchi, an anti-choice activist and founder of the Breast Cancer Prevention Institute, an organization which disseminates false information about abortion care and contraceptives. In one brochure, called “The Pill Kills,” LanFranchi claims that contraception causes women to “die a violent death.” Clark’s reliance on LanFranchi raises concerns about someone whose responsibilities would include weighing evidence and serving as a neutral fact-finder.

In another case, Clark represented a woman seeking custody of a frozen embryo. After losing, Clark lamented that “the trial court’s judgment treated the embryonic children as inanimate objects, not human beings with the same interests as other unborn children.”

Clark also has a troubling record on marriage equality. In a 2016 speech at Duke University, Clark said that “one of the next evolutions of same-sex marriage is polygamy.” In a 2016 speech, while discussing how a “conservative justice” would rule in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, Clark stated that “There is no constitutional right to same-sex marriage. [Conservative justices] would say that the Constitution, if you look in the text of the Constitution, you would find no such right. And that for 2,000 years or more, marriage has been between one man and one woman.”

Given his strong opposition to equal rights for women and LGBTQ Americans, Alliance for Justice strongly opposes his confirmation to a lifetime seat on the federal bench.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nan Aron". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nan" and the last name "Aron" clearly distinguishable.

Nan Aron