

APPEALING for our COURTS

A Special Report Prayer Guide for the U.S. Judicial System by Intercessors for America

An IFA Interactive Prayer Guide

INTERCESSORS
FOR
AMERICA

The Supreme Court and other federal and circuit courts will decide many critical issues, as we have seen in the recent years, with *Roe v Wade* (abortion), *Obergefell* (same sex marriage) and others. The judicial appointments that this Administration will make are paramount to the preservation of our Constitution, and the religious freedom granted by it in our nation. Please join us in praying for the process, those directing the process, and for those potential candidates for judicial appointments. As you read this special report, be in prayer:

PRAY for each person listed here to recognize their own inadequacy and pray to seek the will of God. (Proverbs 3:5-8)

PRAY that each would fear God and that God would be glorified through their actions. (Proverbs 9:10)

PRAY for God's will to be done in our nation, and that our courts would honor biblical values in their rulings and decisions. (Matthew 6:10)



Why are judicial appointments important?

Who is a part of the appointment process?

Who are potential Supreme Court nominees if needed?

How can we pray?

Praying beyond the Supreme Court

Psalm 11:3

When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?

Pray for our nation's judicial system to restore its foundations to what it was originally built on—the law of nature and nature's God. Pray about the opportunities and challenges of the Trump Administration to install judges who will rightly use the Constitution to adjudicate in our nation.

Believers know that Supreme Court nominations are a critical part of an Administration's lasting fingerprints on our nation. More than the



appointment of a Supreme Court Justice or two gives the Trump Administration the opportunity to shape the country's judicial system for the better. For far too long, activist judges have sat in places of authority and

struck down laws that have no basis other than ideology. Others have allowed the passage of laws that are not only anti-biblical but also anti-constitutional as well. How can the Trump

Administration help our nation bring the judicial system to a more constitutionally-based place of operating?

Attorney Phillip L. Jauregui (pictured left) with Judicial Action Group shares, "We believe that judicial nominations are the most important issue facing the Trump Administration. This is true for at least three reasons. First, judges can serve for 30-40 years and, therefore, far outlast the service of the President. Second, for decades now judges have usurped legislative power and set policy over the most important political issues facing our nation including: life, marriage, immigration, religious freedom and our national relationship with God. Third, and perhaps most significantly, in the coming weeks and months we may have the opportunity to replace a liberal Supreme Court Justice with a true constitutionalist who fears God." A constitutionalist appointment could change the balance of the Supreme Court for the first time since 1962.

"Both the pace of confirmation and the quality of these [federal] judges is excellent, and ACLJ encourages it to continue. The work these judges will do on the federal courts will have a positive impact on our country for decades to come," remarks David Fonseca, Deputy Director of Government Affairs, American Center for Law & Justice.

<https://www.ifapray.org/promo/courts/>



Pray for honesty, integrity and careful scrutiny in the judicial confirmation process.

Matthew 6:9-10

*This, then, is how you should pray:
“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven...”*

Proverbs 22:28

Do not move an ancient boundary stone set up by your ancestors.

Proverbs 16:23

The hearts of the wise make their mouths prudent, and their lips promote instruction.

How are federal judges nominated and confirmed?

The process for judicial nominations is relatively simple—the President nominates judicial candidates for federal judgeships and the Senate votes to confirm the nominees.

The Senate is making great progress and at press time of this report has confirmed 21 powerful federal Circuit Court judges and 18 federal District Court judges. However, there are many more vacancies that need to be filled. Pray for swift processing of these positions, for non-political review, and for wise selections to be made and confirmed.

The Process

1. **Scrutiny:** At the point of nomination, the Judge has already completed hundreds of pages of inquiries about past clients, childhood associates, family, social relationships, income, and more. The FBI concurrently runs a background check. View a prospective judge questionnaire [here](#).
2. **Private Meetings with senators:** One-on-one meetings may take place with senators, giving them a chance to personally meet and question the nominated judge on issues important to them.
3. **The Hearing:** This is where the public begins to see what is happening with the nominee and what sticking points are at the heart of the questioning. Televised, and often theatrical, members of the Judiciary Committee who are questioning the judge grill the nominee in public, exposing weaknesses or strengths, usually depending on the political party of the questioner. Here is where you find the sound bytes for the evening news.
4. **Decision Time:** The full Senate vote occurs; 60 votes are needed to confirm federal judges. That is, of course, unless the majority party chooses to use the “nuclear option” which lowers the requirement to a simple majority of 51.

Prayer Journal Notes

Pray for the decisionmakers in the confirmation process of federal judges.



Pray for the Senate Judiciary Committee

Please pray for these members of the [Senate Judiciary Committee](#), who are leading the confirmation process of federal judges before they go to the full Senate for a vote. Pray that these members would treat nominees fairly and use only criteria pertaining to their record and rulings for evaluation of their confirmation.



Chairman

Senator Chuck Grassley (R - IA)



Ranking Member

Senator Dianne Feinstein (D - CA)

Other Members—Majority

Senator Orrin G. Hatch (R - UT)
Senator Lindsey Graham (R - SC)
Senator John Cornyn (R - TX)
Senator Michael S. Lee (R - UT)
Senator Ted Cruz (R - TX)
Senator Ben Sasse (R - NE)
Senator Jeff Flake (R - AZ)
Senator Mike Crapo (R - ID)
Senator Thom Tillis (R - NC)
Senator John Kennedy (R - LA)

Other Members—Minority

Senator Patrick Leahy (D - VT)
Senator Dick Durbin (D - IL)
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D - RI)
Senator Amy Klobuchar (D - MN)
Senator Christopher A. Coons (D - DE)
Senator Richard Blumenthal (D - CT)
Senator Mazie Hirono (D - HI)
Senator Cory Booker (D - NJ)
Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA)

How long will a federal judge serve?

Supreme Court justices, court of appeals judges, and district court judges are all nominated by the president and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Once in office, they can remain in their positions for life. Supreme Court justices are appointed for life. Lifetime tenure is a safety mechanism because the role of a justice is to be ready to make decisions that are unpopular or counter to the will of the majority. Because they are not elected, they are free to uphold the law in spite of backlash. The manner of selection for lower courts depends on the court and can be a combination of appointment, merit selection, non-partisan election, and partisan election. The fact that these judges are appointed for lifetime or lengthy terms underscores the importance of installing the right judges. Activist judges can, conversely, affect good lower court rulings and start judicial precedents that can spiral into a constitutional crisis for the nation. Christians have a duty to pray for these nominees and the committee approving them.

Romans 13:1

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

Galatians 6:7-8

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction, whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.



Pray for these judicial openings to be filled with godly and constitutionalist judges.

Proverbs 19:8

The one who gets wisdom loves life; the one who cherishes understanding will soon prosper.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

Court	Authorized Judgeships	Vacancies	Nominees Pending	Nominees for Future Vacancies
U.S. Court of Appeals	179	14	7	3
U.S. District Courts	677	126	70	2
U.S. Court of Intl. Trade	9	2	0	0
U.S. Court of Fed. Claims	16	6	3	0
U.S. Supreme Court	9	0	0	0
Total	890	148	80	5

As of June 2018. Source: <http://www.uscourts.gov/judges-judgeships/judicial-vacancies>

Circuit Court	Authorized Judges	Openings	Judicial Emergency Level
1st Circuit Court	6	0	Green
2nd Circuit Court	13	2	Yellow
3rd Circuit Court	14	2	Yellow
4th Circuit Court	15	1	Yellow
5th Circuit Court	17	1	Yellow
6th Circuit Court	16	0	Green
7th Circuit Court	11	3	Red
8th Circuit Court	11	0	Green
9th Circuit Court	29	7	Red
10th Circuit Court	12	1	Yellow
11th Circuit Court	12	0	Green
DC Circuit Court	11	0	Yellow
Federal Circuit	12	0	Green
International Trade	9	2	Yellow
Total	188	19	

Judicial Emergency Level Key

Green 0-10% vacancy
Yellow 10-24% vacancy
Red 25+% vacancy

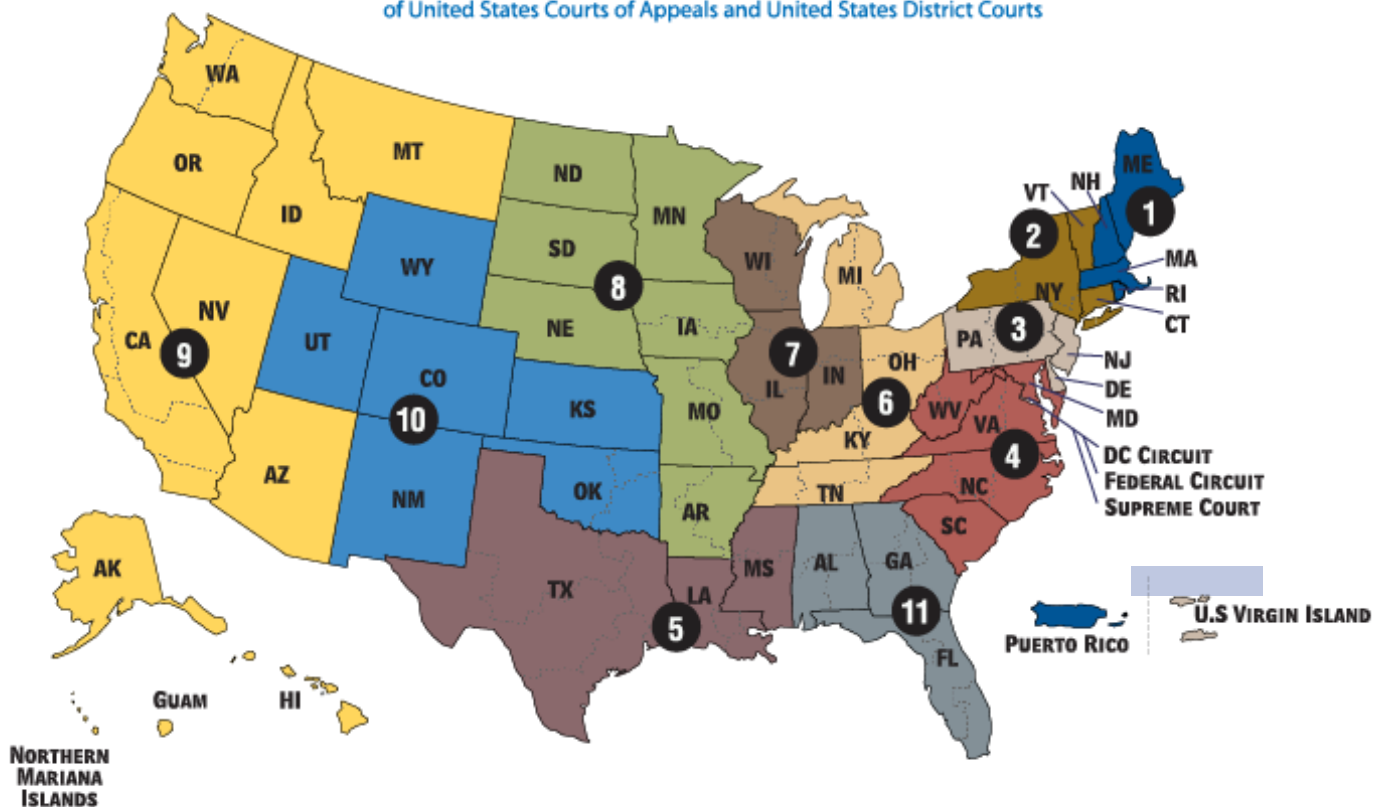
Source: <https://ballotpedia.org/>

Pray for each of these Court of Appeals Circuit Courts. Pray for judges who will uphold the Constitution in their rulings.



Geographic Boundaries

of United States Courts of Appeals and United States District Courts



Federal Claims Court and International Trade Court have national jurisdiction.

As of May 2018. Source: <http://www.uscourts.gov/judges-judgeships/judicial-vacancies>

Prayer Journal Notes



Pray for these potential candidates for the Supreme Court should an opening occur.

Psalm 22:27-29

All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, for dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations.

Romans 1:20

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

President Trump stated when running for office, "We have a very clear choice in this election. The freedoms we cherish and the constitutional values and principles our country was founded on are in jeopardy. The responsibility is greater than ever to protect and uphold these freedoms and I will appoint justices, who like Justice Scalia, will protect our liberty with the highest regard for the Constitution." Although there is not presently an opening on the Supreme Court, one may open very soon. The following pages contain names and short profiles of those who are seen as some of the most serious prospects for the Supreme Court. We believe that some of these prospects are good but some are not. Therefore, we are asking the Lord to exclude those He has not chosen for the Supreme Court and to seat only His appointed Justice(s).



Raymond Kethledge

Raymond Kethledge is a federal judge for the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, appointed in 2008 by George W. Bush. Kethledge clerked for

Supreme Court Justice Kennedy, and has served as guest lecturer at University of Michigan in addition to his private practice. Justice Kethledge is a graduate of University of Michigan and Wayne State University Law School.



Don Willett

Don Willett is a justice on the Supreme Court of Texas. His legal career includes serving as Deputy Texas Attorney General and Justice

Department Deputy Assistant attorney general for the Office of Legal Policy. Justice Willett is a graduate of Baylor University and Duke University Law School.



Thomas Lee

Thomas Lee, brother of Utah Senator Mike Lee, is a justice on the Utah Supreme Court, serving since 2010. Lee has clerked for Supreme Court

Justice Clarence Thomas, as well as served as faculty at BYU's J. Reuben Clark Law School. He is a graduate of Brigham Young University and University of Chicago Law School.

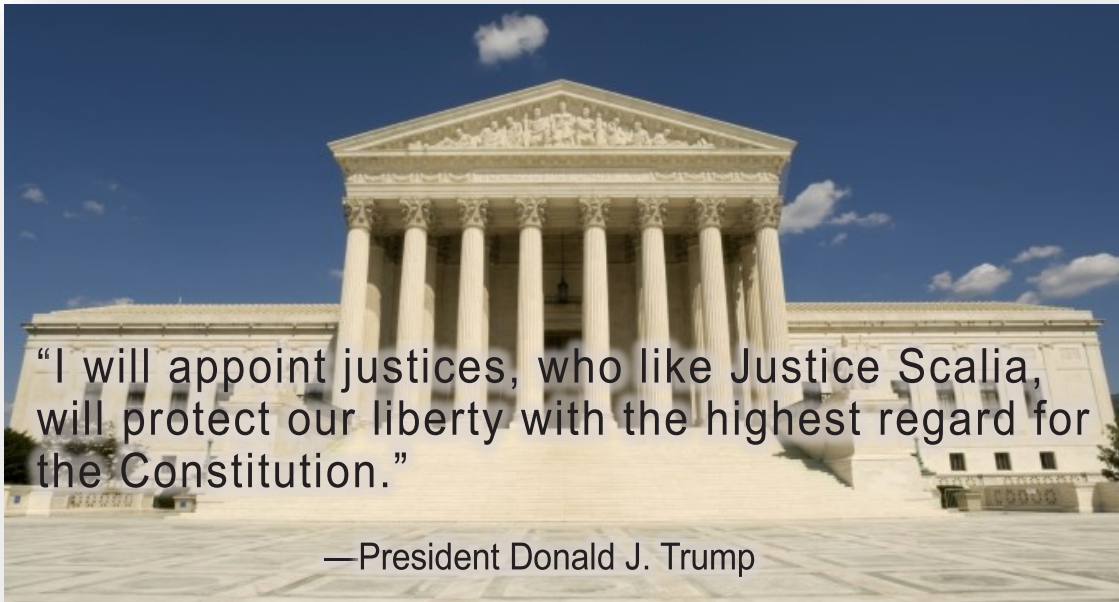


Amul Thapar

Amul Thapar is a judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky, serving since his appointment in 2007, when he became the

first South Asian Article III judge. Judge Thapar has served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Washington, D.C. and the Southern District of Ohio, and U.S. Attorney in the eastern district of Kentucky. Judge Thapar received his law degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

Prayer Journal Notes



“I will appoint justices, who like Justice Scalia, will protect our liberty with the highest regard for the Constitution.”

—President Donald J. Trump



Amy Coney Barrett

Amy Coney Barrett is a United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, recently confirmed in 2017. Prior to her appointment,

Coney Barrett served as Professor of Law at Notre Dame Law School. She has also taught law at the University of Virginia Law School and George Washington University. A graduate of Rhodes College and the Notre Dame Law School, Coney Barrett served as a clerk for former Justice Antonin Scalia. Barrett received national notoriety with the extraordinarily biased and hostile grilling she received about her personal faith in Christ by Senate Judiciary Committee member Dianne Feinstein. Her appearance before the committee was a textbook example of religious freedom bias against nominees of Christian faith in public service—from the judiciary to the Cabinet.



Thomas Hardiman

Thomas Hardiman is a federal judge on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, serving since 2007. He previously served as a U.S.

District Judge. Judge Hardiman is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and Georgetown University Law Center.



Brett Kavanaugh

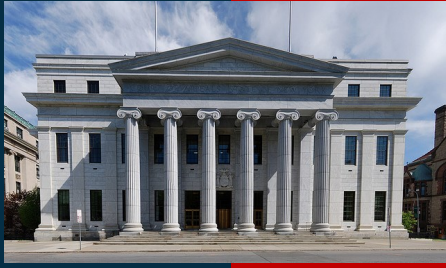
Brett Kavanaugh is currently a United States Circuit Judge of the United State Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit. He

previously served as Staff Secretary in the Executive Office of the President under President George W. Bush. Kavanaugh graduated from Yale University and Yale Law School.

Psalm 2:1-6

Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed, saying, “Let us break their chains and throw off their shackles.” The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, “I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain.”

Prayer Journal Notes



Pray these prayer points for our judicial system and appointment process.

Psalm 138:8

The Lord will vindicate me; your love, Lord, endures forever—do not abandon the works of your hands.

Psalm 11:7

For the Lord is righteous, he loves justice; the upright will see his face.

2 Corinthians 3:17

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

Phillip Jauregui of Judicial Action Group compiled this insightful list of prayer points for intercessors to pray:

- That the featured Supreme Court prospects in this report, and chiefly, Judge Amy Coney Barrett, will receive favor from God and unified support from all conservative leaders who are a part of the confirmation process.
- That President Trump, Vice President Pence, White House Counsel Don McGahn, and outside advisors Leonard Leo, John Malcomb, and Mike Farris will hear from God and agree on His choice for the Supreme Court, should an opening occur.
- For the President and Senate leaders to have continued dedication to ensure the confirmation of the many lower court judges who are presently being processed through the Senate and to break through the resistance and obstruction of those in the Senate who oppose President Trump and his judicial nominees.
- That God would remove procedural and political obstacles to solid nominees for the many vacancies and that confirmations would occur at a faster rate.

Additional Scriptural Prayer Points for our Judicial System

Judges would understand and accept our Creator's laws.

Evildoers do not understand what is right, but those who seek the Lord understand it fully.

—[Proverbs 28:5](#)

The American judiciary would consist of qualified, wise justices.

Select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place these over them as leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens. Let them judge the people at all times...

—[Exodus 18:21-22](#)

Our courts would rule with God's righteousness.

Then I charged your judges at that time, saying, "Hear the cases between your fellow countrymen, and judge righteously between a man and his fellow countryman, or the alien who is with him."

—[Deuteronomy 1:16](#)

Judges in our nation would rule justly.

When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers.

—[Proverbs 21:15](#)

