

Judicial Reform Package

A steady stream of alarming revelations in recent years has severely undermined public faith in the independence and integrity of the federal judiciary, including the U.S. Supreme Court. Investigative reports have uncovered a pervasive culture of undisclosed luxury gifts and glaring conflicts of interest, all while Justices refuse to recuse themselves from major cases tied directly to their benefactors' financial or political advantage.

This has led to a series of deeply damaging Supreme Court decisions that have stripped away decades of reproductive freedom, systematically dismantled environmental protections, weakened foundational voting rights, and eroded democratic norms.

In response to public outcry, the Supreme Court adopted a toothless code of conduct with no independent enforcement. A self-policing system where the highest jurists in the land act as their own ethical arbiters is fundamentally incompatible with the rule of law and the courts' responsibility to dispense impartial justice.

To regain the American people's trust in our courts, Congress must pass rigorous, binding statutory guardrails that ensure no federal judge operates above the basic ethical standards expected of other public servants.

Each aspect of this legislative package is necessary to eliminate the exploited loopholes and outdated laws that have led us here and bring long-overdue transparency, accountability, and public oversight to the federal judiciary.

The legislative package includes:

The ***Judicial Integrity Act***, which would hold judges and Supreme Court Justices to higher ethical standards by applying the federal conflict-of-interest statute to the federal judiciary.

The ***Justice is BLIND Act***, which would prevent judicial conflicts of interest by requiring federal judges and Supreme Court Justices to place their financial assets into blind trusts. Under this bill, all federal judges, Supreme Court Justices, magistrate judges, and bankruptcy judges, as well as their spouses and dependent children, must place covered financial interests into a qualified blind trust within 90 days of enactment or being sworn into office. Judges must provide a written compliance attestation within 15 days of establishing the trust, which the Administrative Office of the United States Courts will publish on a searchable public database.

The ***Judicial FOIA Expansion Act***, which would increase transparency by subjecting the administrative offices of the federal judiciary to the same Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requirements currently applied to executive branch agencies. The bill creates an explicit right of public access to specific administrative records, including judicial complaints, investigations, and orders against court personnel; attorney disciplinary proceedings; Judicial Conference meeting calendars and minutes; and PACER technical audits or update plans.

U.S. Representatives Sydney Kamlager-Dove (D-Calif-37), Hank Johnson (D-Ga.-4), and Dan Goldman (D-N.Y.-10) are leading companion legislation to the bills, respectively, in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Endorsements

The ***Justice is BLIND Act*** is endorsed by:

Alliance for Justice, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), Court Accountability, End Citizens United, Fix the Court, Free Speech for People, Government Information Watch, League of Conservation Voters, National Taxpayers Union, Not Above the Law Coalition, People for the American Way (PFAW), Project on Government Oversight (POGO), Public Citizen, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), Stand Up America, and Take Back the Court Action Fund.

The ***Judicial Integrity Act*** is endorsed by:

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), Court Accountability, End Citizens United, Fix the Court, Free Speech for People, Government Information Watch, League of Conservation Voters, National Taxpayers Union, Not Above the Law Coalition, People for the American Way (PFAW), Project on Government Oversight (POGO), Public Citizen, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), Stand Up America, and Take Back the Court Action Fund.

The ***Judicial FOIA Expansion Act*** is endorsed by:

Alliance for Justice, Court Accountability, End Citizens United, Fix the Court, Free Law Project, Free Speech for People, Government Information Watch, League of Conservation Voters, National Taxpayers Union, Not Above the Law Coalition, Public Citizen, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), Stand Up America, and Take Back the Court Action Fund.