

# supreme court justice vetting

**supreme court justice vetting** is a critical process in the U.S. judicial system, ensuring that nominees to the nation's highest court possess the qualifications, integrity, and judicial temperament required for such a pivotal role. This comprehensive examination involves multiple stages, including background checks, evaluation of legal philosophy, and scrutiny of past rulings and writings. The vetting process not only assesses a nominee's professional credentials but also gauges their ability to interpret the Constitution impartially. Given the lifetime tenure of Supreme Court justices, the vetting procedure is both rigorous and politically significant, often involving detailed hearings and debates. Understanding the key components and challenges of supreme court justice vetting is essential for comprehending how the judiciary maintains its role as a coequal branch of government. This article explores the various facets of the vetting process, from initial selection to Senate confirmation, highlighting the legal, political, and societal implications involved.

- The Nomination and Selection Process
- Background Investigation and Qualifications
- Judicial Philosophy and Legal Record Analysis
- Senate Confirmation Hearings
- Political and Public Considerations

## The Nomination and Selection Process

The supreme court justice vetting process begins with the nomination and selection stage, where the President of the United States identifies a candidate to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court. This initial phase is crucial, as the President typically seeks nominees whose judicial philosophy aligns with their administration's values and priorities. The selection involves consultations with advisors, legal experts, and sometimes senators to gauge potential nominees' suitability.

## Role of the President

The President exercises the constitutional authority to nominate justices, often considering factors such as experience, age, and ideological compatibility. Presidents may prioritize nominees with a distinguished legal career, including prior judicial experience on lower federal courts, academic credentials, or significant legal practice achievements. The selection process is strategic, aiming to influence the Court's direction for decades.

## **Preliminary Vetting by the White House**

Before a formal nomination, the White House conducts an internal vetting process. This includes preliminary background checks and consultations with the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to identify any potential issues or controversies. This stage helps avoid surprises during the public vetting and confirmation phases.

## **Background Investigation and Qualifications**

A thorough background investigation is a cornerstone of supreme court justice vetting. This step ensures that nominees meet the highest ethical standards and possess the requisite legal expertise. The investigation encompasses personal, professional, and financial aspects to provide a comprehensive profile of the candidate.

## **Professional Experience and Legal Acumen**

Nominees are carefully evaluated for their legal qualifications, including years of practice, judicial experience, and contributions to legal scholarship. A strong professional background often includes service on appellate courts, notable case rulings, and respected legal opinions. These qualifications demonstrate the nominee's capability to handle complex constitutional issues.

## **Personal Background and Integrity**

Integrity is paramount in supreme court justice vetting. Investigators examine the nominee's personal history, including education, family background, and any past conduct that might raise ethical concerns. The FBI conducts extensive background checks to uncover any potential conflicts of interest or character issues that could undermine public confidence in the Court.

## **Financial Disclosures and Conflicts of Interest**

Nominees must disclose financial holdings and interests to identify possible conflicts that could affect impartiality. Scrutiny of these disclosures helps ensure justices remain free from undue influence and maintain the judiciary's independence.

## **Judicial Philosophy and Legal Record Analysis**

Evaluating a nominee's judicial philosophy and legal record is a critical component of supreme court justice vetting. This analysis provides insight into how the nominee interprets the Constitution and approaches legal questions, which can influence future Court decisions on landmark issues.

## **Interpretative Approaches**

Nominees are assessed based on their adherence to various interpretative methods, such as originalism, textualism, or a more pragmatic approach to constitutional law. These philosophies help predict a justice's stance on issues like civil rights, federal power, and individual liberties.

## **Review of Past Opinions and Writings**

Reviewing a nominee's judicial opinions, legal briefs, articles, and speeches offers a window into their reasoning and legal priorities. Senators and legal analysts examine these documents to identify consistency, judicial temperament, and potential biases.

## **Impact on Legal Precedent**

The nominee's influence on existing legal precedent is also considered. Justices who demonstrate respect for *stare decisis*—the principle of adhering to precedent—may be viewed differently than those who favor overturning established rulings.

## **Senate Confirmation Hearings**

The Senate confirmation hearings represent the public and formal phase of supreme court justice vetting. Here, nominees undergo intense questioning by Senate Judiciary Committee members, addressing their qualifications, judicial philosophy, and potential controversies.

## **Committee Hearings**

The Judiciary Committee conducts detailed hearings where nominees respond to inquiries about their legal views and past rulings. These sessions are televised and scrutinized closely by the public and media, highlighting the transparency and political dimensions of the vetting process.

## **Questioning and Evaluation**

Senators use the hearings to test the nominee's ability to remain impartial, clarify legal positions, and address any contentious issues. The quality of the nominee's responses can influence support or opposition within the Senate.

## **Committee Vote and Senate Floor Debate**

Following the hearings, the Judiciary Committee votes on whether to recommend the nominee to the full Senate. The nomination then proceeds to the Senate floor for debate

and a final confirmation vote, which requires a simple majority to approve.

## **Political and Public Considerations**

Supreme court justice vetting is deeply intertwined with political dynamics and public opinion. The process often reflects broader ideological battles and considerations about the Court's future composition.

## **Partisan Implications**

Because justices serve lifetime appointments, their selection can shift the Court's ideological balance for generations. Political parties typically advocate for nominees who align with their views, making vetting a highly strategic and partisan process.

## **Public Opinion and Media Influence**

Media coverage and public sentiment play significant roles during the vetting and confirmation stages. Public support or opposition can pressure senators and influence the trajectory of the confirmation process.

## **Impact on Judicial Independence**

While political considerations are inevitable, supreme court justice vetting strives to uphold judicial independence by focusing on qualifications and merit. Maintaining this balance is essential to preserving the Court's legitimacy and role as an impartial arbiter of the law.

## **Key Steps in Supreme Court Justice Vetting**

- Presidential nomination based on legal qualifications and judicial philosophy
- Internal White House vetting including background and FBI checks
- Comprehensive investigation of professional and personal history
- Analysis of judicial record and legal writings
- Senate Judiciary Committee hearings and questioning
- Senate committee vote and full Senate confirmation vote
- Consideration of political and public factors throughout the process

# **Frequently Asked Questions**

## **What is Supreme Court justice vetting?**

Supreme Court justice vetting is the process of evaluating a nominee's qualifications, background, judicial philosophy, and suitability for a lifetime appointment to the Supreme Court.

## **Who conducts the vetting of Supreme Court justice nominees?**

The vetting process is primarily conducted by the Senate Judiciary Committee, along with background checks by the FBI and other agencies before the nominee faces a Senate confirmation vote.

## **What factors are considered during Supreme Court justice vetting?**

Factors include the nominee's legal experience, prior rulings, academic credentials, ethical background, temperament, and potential impact on the Court's ideological balance.

## **How long does the Supreme Court justice vetting process usually take?**

The vetting process can take several weeks to a few months, depending on the political climate, the nominee's background, and the thoroughness of investigations.

## **Why is Supreme Court justice vetting important?**

Because Supreme Court justices serve lifetime appointments and make decisions that shape national laws and policies, thorough vetting ensures qualified, ethical, and impartial individuals are appointed.

## **What role does public opinion play in Supreme Court justice vetting?**

While the vetting itself is conducted by the Senate and relevant agencies, public opinion can influence senators' votes and the overall confirmation process.

## **Can Supreme Court justice vetting prevent controversial nominees?**

Vetting aims to uncover any issues or controversies, but political considerations often influence whether a nominee is deemed acceptable despite controversies.

# How has Supreme Court justice vetting evolved over time?

The vetting process has become more transparent and politically charged, with increased media scrutiny, public hearings, and detailed examination of nominees' personal and professional histories.

## Additional Resources

### 1. *Confirming Justice: The Supreme Court Nomination Process*

This book offers an in-depth analysis of the political and legal battles surrounding the confirmation of Supreme Court justices. It explores the historical evolution of the vetting process and how partisan dynamics influence the selection and approval of nominees. Readers gain insight into the role of the Senate, media scrutiny, and public opinion in shaping the Court's composition.

### 2. *The Nominee's Dilemma: Inside the Supreme Court Vetting Process*

Delving into the personal and professional challenges faced by Supreme Court nominees, this book provides a behind-the-scenes look at the rigorous vetting process. It examines how nominees prepare for hearings, navigate intense questioning, and manage their public image. The narrative also highlights key cases where vetting played a pivotal role in the outcome of confirmations.

### 3. *Judging the Judges: Political Influence in Supreme Court Confirmations*

This work scrutinizes the intersection of politics and the judiciary during the vetting of Supreme Court justices. It discusses how political parties leverage the confirmation process to advance ideological agendas and the impact this has on judicial independence. The book also covers landmark confirmation battles that reshaped the Court's ideological balance.

### 4. *Senate Showdown: The Battle Over Supreme Court Seats*

Focusing on the Senate's critical role in vetting and confirming justices, this title chronicles the most contentious confirmation hearings in U.S. history. It provides detailed accounts of Senate procedures, committee hearings, and the strategic maneuvering by senators. The book highlights how these battles reflect broader political and social tensions.

### 5. *Vetting the Bench: Legal and Ethical Standards in Supreme Court Nominations*

This book examines the criteria used to evaluate Supreme Court nominees, including legal qualifications, ethical considerations, and professional conduct. It discusses the role of background investigations, financial disclosures, and past rulings in the vetting process. Readers learn about the standards that nominees must meet to gain Senate approval.

### 6. *Behind Closed Doors: The Confidential World of Supreme Court Vetting*

Offering a rare glimpse into the private aspects of the vetting process, this book reveals how confidential investigations and advisory committee assessments influence nominations. It explores the roles of the White House Counsel, FBI background checks, and political advisors. The narrative sheds light on the delicate balance between transparency and secrecy.

### 7. *From Nominee to Justice: The Journey Through Confirmation*

This comprehensive account traces the journey of Supreme Court nominees from initial selection to final confirmation. It details the preparation, public hearings, and post-confirmation adjustments justices face. The book also reflects on how the vetting process shapes the Court's long-term jurisprudence.

### 8. *The Politics of Confirmation: Ideology and Influence in Supreme Court Vetting*

This title analyzes how ideological considerations dominate the vetting process, influencing who is nominated and ultimately confirmed. It discusses the role of interest groups, advocacy organizations, and media campaigns in shaping public perception. The book provides case studies demonstrating the politicization of Supreme Court confirmations.

### 9. *Guardians of the Constitution: The High-Stakes World of Supreme Court Vetting*

Highlighting the importance of Supreme Court justices in American governance, this book explores the high-stakes nature of their vetting and confirmation. It examines how nominees are scrutinized for their views on constitutional interpretation and civil rights. The narrative underscores the lasting impact these decisions have on the nation's legal landscape.

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### **supreme court justice vetting: Accountability of Judicial Power** Piotr Mikuli, 2025-04-29

This book brings together a group of international scholars to discuss theoretical and comparative considerations of judicial accountability. Accountability of the judiciary is an essential element in a democratic state ruled by law. Its design must take into account the need to ensure both the legitimacy of the judiciary and its independence. The work discusses accountability in the light of recent research, including studies on the crisis of the rule of law in the contemporary world. The book adopts a broad approach to accountability, which has various facets, referring both to the courts, that is the organisational element of the judicial branch of government, and to judges, its individual dimension. It is divided into four parts: the first deals with the essence of the concept of accountability of the judiciary; the second discusses the emerging standards relating primarily to the individual accountability of judges; and the third discusses the position of constitutional judges through the lens of accountability. The fourth and final part provides a detailed consideration of the specific accountability mechanisms. The book will be a valuable resource for academics, researchers, and policymakers working in the areas of constitutional law and politics, and accountability studies.

**supreme court justice vetting: Defense against Terrorism** M. Coen, 2019-04-02 Global terrorism is a double-edged threat to democracies. Physically, because of the number of people killed and wounded, structurally, because it threatens social peace and over-reaction tends to undermine our basic values. The authors of the chapters in this book are multinational and interdisciplinary. Their papers were presented for discussion at the Advanced Research Workshop (ARW) held in Skopje (FYROM) 11-14th April 2018 on "Defence Against Terrorism, Enhancing

Resilience of Democratic Institutions and Rule of Law”, organized within the NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme. Results can be summarised as follows. Counter-terrorist strategy must aim to achieve less, not more, terrorism. The countries with best results are the ones that cultivate human intelligence, confidence between security services and the local population, together with a tradition of effective respect of the Rule of Law. Militarization of internal security, and intelligence systems mainly based on databases (“big data”) and artificial intelligence, though popular, are showing serious limits. More effective democracy, not less, is the key to the resilience of our societies against the “new threats”, particularly for confronting the criminal violence of terror. In discussion, some core necessities were identified: to recognize that it is the method used, not the aims, that define criminal organisations as terrorist; that there is a structural link with organized crime for financing and operative support, and that corruption facilitates and protects any illegal activity; social capital must be developed as a fundamental basic tool for enhancing resilience. This book aims to help analyse the networks and contexts that feed terrorism. It provides anyone confronted with security issues an understanding of the negative as well as the positive aspects of specific counter-measures.

**supreme court justice vetting: Justice as Prevention** Pablo De Greiff, Alexander Mayer-Rieckh, 2007 Countries emerging from armed conflict or authoritarian rule face difficult questions about what to do with public employees who perpetrated past human rights abuses and the institutional structures that allowed such abuses to happen. *Justice as Prevention: Vetting Public Employees in Transitional Societies* examines the transitional reform known as vetting—the process by which abusive or corrupt employees are excluded from public office. More than a means of punishing individuals, vetting represents an important transitional justice measure aimed at reforming institutions and preventing the recurrence of abuses. The book is the culmination of a multiyear project headed by the International Center for Transitional Justice that included human rights lawyers, experts on police and judicial reform, and scholars of transitional justice and reconciliation. It features case studies of Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, El Salvador, the former German Democratic Republic, Greece, Hungary, Poland, and South Africa, as well as chapters on due process, information management, and intersections between other institutional reforms.

**supreme court justice vetting: Seeking Justices** Michael Comiskey, 2004 In the long shadows cast by the Robert Bork and Clarence Thomas nominations, Supreme Court confirmations remain highly contentious and controversial. This is due in part to the Senate's increasing reliance upon a much lengthier, much more public, and occasionally raucous confirmation process—in an effort to curb the potential excesses of executive power created by presidents seeking greater control over the Court's ideological composition. Michael Comiskey offers the most comprehensive, systematic, and optimistic analysis of that process to date. Arguing that the process works well and therefore should not be significantly altered, Comiskey convincingly counters those critics who view highly contentious confirmation proceedings as the norm. Senators have every right and a real obligation, he contends, to scrutinize the nominees' constitutional philosophies. He further argues that the media coverage of the Senate's deliberations has worked to improve the level of such scrutiny and that recent presidents have neither exerted excessive influence on the appointment process nor created a politically extreme Court. He also examines the ongoing concern over presidential efforts to pack the court, concluding that stacking the ideological deck is unlikely. As an exception to the rule, Comiskey analyzes in depth the Thomas confirmation to explain why it was an aberration, offering the most detailed account yet of Thomas's pre-judicial professional and political activities. He argues that the Senate Judiciary Committee abdicated its responsibilities out of deference to Thomas's race. Another of the book's unique features is Comiskey's reassessment of the reputations of twentieth-century Supreme Court justices. Based on a survey of nearly 300 scholars in constitutional law and politics, it shows that the modern confirmation process continues to fill Court vacancies with jurists as capable as those of earlier eras. We have now seen the longest period without a turnover on the Court since the early nineteenth century, making inevitable the



appointment of several new justices following the 2004 presidential election. Thus, the timing of the publication of *Seeking Justices* could not be more propitious.

**supreme court justice vetting: *A View from the Eagle's Nest*** Bob Jack, 2015-06-15 Politicians routinely wield raw political power to push through troubling legislation like the Affordable Care Act, in which the will of the people was ignored to satisfy an extreme minority. National debt is skyrocketing, the Islamic State has exploded, and in Benghazi, we saw the senseless murders of the U.S. ambassador in Libya and three other Americans all as a result of politics, incompetence, and lies. This is what life looks like under the presidency of Barack Obama. Bob Jack, however, isn't letting him get away with it: He tracks Obama's actions, policies, and the results of his ill-fated leadership in this detailed assessment of his tenure as the commander in chief. He contends that no political team has ever brought to America a more radical agenda of change, unabashed insensitivity, and glaring errors in judgment than this liberal, progressive, leftist ideological express called the Obama administration. With Iran's global influence spreading, Russia bullying its neighbors, and radical terrorists threatening to enslave freedom-loving Americans, it's time we make things right by taking *A View from the Eagle's Nest*.

**supreme court justice vetting: *The Supreme Court of the United States*** United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on the Judiciary, 2006

**supreme court justice vetting: *Making the Supreme Court*** Charles M. Cameron, Jonathan P. Kastellec, 2023 *Making the Supreme Court: The Politics of Appointments 1930--2020* tells the story of 90 years of Supreme Court appointments. It examines what happened, why it happened, the consequences for the Supreme Court, the future of appointments, and the prospects for reform. Based on massive data combined with rich qualitative evidence, *Making the Supreme Court* employs new theories, cutting-edge technique, and a novel perspective on political institutions. Finally, it provides a sharp lens on the social and political transformations that created a new American politics. It will appeal not only to students of the Supreme Court but to anyone concerned with the origins and future of American politics--

**supreme court justice vetting: *Confirmation Hearing on the Nomination of John G. Roberts, Jr. to be Chief Justice of the United States*** United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on the Judiciary, 2005

**supreme court justice vetting: *Rehnquist Justice*** Earl M. Maltz, 2003 With seven of its justices appointed by Republican presidents, today's Supreme Court has significantly altered America's legal landscape since 1986 by tilting constitutional jurisprudence to the right. That was the goal of Presidents Reagan and Bush in filling court vacancies and has been felt in cases related to federalism, economic rights, and affirmative action. However, liberal issues such as abortion have moved only marginally to the right, while rulings by the Court on school prayer and gay rights have moved constitutional doctrine slightly to the left. In this collection of original articles, prominent constitutional scholars are joined by new voices from the cutting edge of academia to subject the Rehnquist Court to closer scrutiny and to show that its brand of conservatism is less extreme than many have supposed. Reflecting views across the political spectrum, the contributors help readers understand the Court dynamic, its constrained conservatism, and the forces that shape constitutional law in general. As these authors show, the overall pattern of decision-making in the Rehnquist era cannot be attributed to any single, unified approach to constitutional analysis. Instead, today's Court can only be understood as the product of a complex interaction among individual justices, each with an idiosyncratic view of the proper interpretation of the Constitution and the role of the Court in the American political system. These provocative essays are designed to provide readers with insight into this interaction by focusing on each member of the bench. From the staunch conservatism of Clarence Thomas, to the accommodationism of Sandra Day O'Connor, to the liberal constitutionalism of David Souter, the essays analyze the unique approach of each justice to interpreting the Constitution. They also show that the current justices are the product of a nomination and confirmation process that has undergone a major transformation in recent decades one which favors experienced, often unknown jurists over high-profile public servants. By

concentrating attention on its members, Rehnquist Justice allows us to better understand the Supreme Court as a whole. And by assessing today's judiciary in light of a public philosophy that looks askance at government, it shows us that the Supreme Court has truly become a mirror of its times.

**supreme court justice vetting:** The Nomination of Elena Kagan to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on the Judiciary, 2010

**supreme court justice vetting:** *Health Policy: Applications for Nurses and Other Healthcare Professionals* Demetrius J. Porche, 2021-12 Health Policy: Application for Nurses and Other Health Care Professionals, Third Edition provides an overview of the policy making process within a variety of settings including academia, clinical practice, communities, and various health care systems.

**supreme court justice vetting:** The English Legal System Alisdair Gillespie, 2013-04-18 The English Legal System provides a lively and approachable introduction for those new to the study of law. The textbook presents the main areas of the legal system and encourages students to critique the wider aspects of how law is made and reformed. Clearly structured in five parts: - Sources of Law; - Courts and Practitioners; - Criminal Justice System; - Civil Justice System; and - The Future of ELS the text is designed to reflect the content of legal system courses and provides thorough and informative coverage of all main topics. The author's engaging writing style brings the subject to life and questions for reflection encourage students to engage with and debate the controversial aspects of the legal system. Real life examples, diagrams and activities appear throughout the text to ensure students understand how the law works in practice. Online Resource Centre The English Legal System is accompanied by a variety of online resources for both students and lecturers. For students: - Introductory podcasts guide you through the textbook features - Suggestions for practical activities help you take your learning further - A glossary containing key terms relating to the English legal system - Audio podcasts support the questions for reflection in the textbook - Regular updates featuring discussion of changes in the law since book publication - Web links guide you to useful information on the English legal system For lecturers: - A testbank of multiple choice questions that can be customized and incorporated into your teaching

**supreme court justice vetting:** **Supreme Court For Dummies** Lisa Paddock, 2011-04-22 Gives you the scoop on how the Court reaches its decisions Get involved and track a case through the system This fun and easy guide demystifies the federal court system by describing what kinds of cases the justices hear, outlining how cases reach the Supreme Court, clarifying legal terms, and explaining how the Court arrives at its decisions. You'll discover how to get inside the Court yourself and investigate both the key issues and the players involved. The Dummies Way \* Explanations in plain English \* Get in, get out information \* Icons and other navigational aids \* Tear-out cheat sheet \* Top ten lists \* A dash of humor and fun

**supreme court justice vetting:** **Public Policy** Michael E. Kraft, Scott R. Furlong, 2020-01-07 Kraft and Furlong provide students with a conceptual understanding of public issues and how the public policy process functions. This book also provides a forum for discussions of social, economic, and sustainable development issues; their characteristics; and impacts on human beings (citizens) as well as the environment. It will give students the needed tools to make informed economic and human development decisions that could lead to sustainable growth, human capacity building, and better lives. —Robert Dibie, Indiana University Kokomo With the right information, we can develop public policies that work better. All too often, public policy textbooks offer a basic grounding in the policy process without the benefit of integrating the use of policy analysis. Kraft and Furlong take a different tack. *Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives*, Seventh Edition helps students understand how and why policy analysis is used to assess policy alternatives. The text encourages them to not only question the assumptions of policy analysts, but also recognize how these strategies are used in the support of political arguments. The authors introduce and fully integrate an evaluative approach to policy to encourage critical and creative thinking on issues ranging from health care to climate change. From a concise review of institutions, policy actors, and major

theoretical models to a discussion of the nature of policy analysis and its practice, Kraft and Furlong show students how to employ evaluative criteria in six substantive policy areas. Students come away with the analytic tools they need to understand that the motivations of policy actors—both within and outside of government—influence a complex yet comprehensible policy agenda. A Complete Teaching & Learning Package LMS Cartridge (formally known as SAGE Coursepacks) Import this title's instructor resources into your school's learning management system (LMS) and save time. Don't use an LMS? You can still access all of the same online resources for this title via the password-protected Instructor Resource Site.

**supreme court justice vetting: *Federalism and the Courts in Africa*** Yonatan T. Fessha, Karl Kössler, 2020-03-18 This volume examines the design and impact of courts in African federal systems from a comparative perspective. Recent developments indicate that the previously stymied idea of federalism is now being revived in the constitutional arrangements of several African countries. A number of them jumped on the bandwagon of federalism in the early 1990s because it came to be seen as a means to facilitate development, to counter the concentration of power in a single governmental actor and to manage communal tensions. An important part of the move towards federalism is the establishment of courts that are empowered to umpire intergovernmental disputes. This edited volume brings together contributions that first discuss questions of design by focusing, in particular, on the organization of the judiciary and the appointment of judges in African federal systems. They then examine whether courts have had a rather centralizing or decentralizing impact on the operation of African federal systems. The book will be of interest to researchers and policy-makers in the areas of comparative constitutional law and comparative politics.

**supreme court justice vetting: *The Contested Place of Religion in Family Law*** Robin Fretwell Wilson, 2018-05-31 Like many beliefs, religious views matter across an individual's life and the life cycle of a family - from birth to marriage, through child-rearing, and, eventually, death. This volume examines clashes over religious liberty within the personal realm of the family. Against swirling religious beliefs, secular values, and legal regulation, this volume offers a forward-looking examination of tensions between religious freedom and the state's protective function. Contributors unpack some of the Court's recent decisions and explain how they set the stage for ongoing disputes. They evaluate religious claims around birth control, circumcision, modesty, religious education, marriage, polygamy, shared parenting, corporal punishment, faith healing, divorce, and the end of life. Authors span legislators, attorneys, academics, journalists, ministers, physicians, child advocates, and representatives of minority faiths. *The Contested Place of Religion in Family Law* begins an overdue conversation on questions dividing the nation.

**supreme court justice vetting: *The Legislative Legacy of Edward M. Kennedy*** Craig A. Horowitz, 2014-02-07 Sweeping biographies abound, authorized and nonauthorized, regarding Ted Kennedy. They tend either to applaud him for his ideals or criticize him for his personal flaws. The present work differs. Using historical tools and legal analysis, it closely examines ten major pieces of legislation Kennedy sponsored or strongly backed as well as the attempt at immigration reform he spearheaded with John McCain. This is a balanced and thoroughly researched book. By tracing the legislation from their introduction through passage, and analyzing the actual language of the legislation, the book sheds considerable light both on the unintended consequences through time of the legislation as well as consequences Kennedy intended in attempting to promote reform and combat discrimination.

**supreme court justice vetting: *New Zealand News*** , 1978

**supreme court justice vetting: *Race, Gender, Sexuality, and the Politics of the American Judiciary*** Samantha L. Hernandez, Sharon A. Navarro, 2018-11-29 The judicial system in a liberal democracy is deemed to be an independent branch of government with judges free from political agendas or societal pressures. In reality, judges are often influenced by their economic and social backgrounds, gender, race, religion, and sexuality. This volume explores the representation of different identities in the judiciary in the United States. The contributors investigate the pipeline, ambition, institutional inclusion, retention, and representation of groups previously excluded from

federal, state, and local judiciaries. This study demonstrates how diversity on the bench improves the quality of justice, bolsters confidence in the legitimacy of the courts, and provides a vital voice in decision-making power for formerly disenfranchised populations.

**supreme court justice vetting: Gender and Judging** Ulrike Schultz, Gisela Shaw, 2014-07-18  
Does gender make a difference to the way the judiciary works and should work? Or is gender-blindness a built-in prerequisite of judicial objectivity? If gender does make a difference, how might this be defined? These are the key questions posed in this collection of essays, by some 30 authors from the following countries; Argentina, Cambodia, Canada, England, France, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Kenya, the Netherlands, the Philippines, South Africa, Switzerland, Syria and the United States. The contributions draw on various theoretical approaches, including gender, feminist and sociological theories. The book's pressing topicality is underlined by the fact that well into the modern era male opposition to women's admission to, and progress within, the judicial profession has been largely based on the argument that their very gender programmes women to show empathy, partiality and gendered prejudice - in short essential qualities running directly counter to the need for judicial objectivity. It took until the last century for women to begin to break down such seemingly insurmountable barriers. And even now, there are a number of countries where even this first step is still waiting to happen. In all of them, there remains a more or less pronounced glass ceiling to women's judicial careers.

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