



Judge Leslie H. Southwick Talking Points

- Judge Southwick has been nominated to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit (Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi).
- He is a highly respected attorney; was Deputy Assistant Attorney General; served as a member of the Judge Advocate General's Corps in the U.S. Army for five years; served as a member of the Mississippi Court of Appeals for 12 years; and most recently, served heroically in Iraq as a member of the Mississippi National Guard.
- Judge Southwick graduated *cum laude* from Rice University and received his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law in 1975. He is now a visiting professor at Mississippi College of Law.
- The American Bar Association (ABA) unanimously gave Judge Southwick a “well qualified” rating, the highest rating a judge can receive.
- The Senate already *unanimously* confirmed Judge Southwick to a lower federal court in 2006.
- Liberal Senators are obstructing a vote on this extremely well qualified judge because of the immense pressure put on them by far left special interest groups.
- Liberal groups have worked tirelessly to find anything they could object to in Judge Southwick's record. It speaks highly of the Judge that out of more than 7,000 opinions handed down while he served on the Mississippi Court of Appeals, liberal activists found only two they could mischaracterize to use against him. Ironically, he authored neither opinion.
- The left knows that Judge Southwick is an “originalist.” That is to say, he believes in the original meaning of the Constitution and will interpret the law rather than impose his personal beliefs through the law.
- If liberal Senators are sincere in their opposition of Judge Southwick, even after looking at his impeccable credentials, they can vote “no.” But they will not even allow a vote because they know there is no sincere reason to oppose him.
- We need more judges. The legal process keeps getting more involved and more expensive by the minute, making it very difficult for the average person to obtain relief for their grievances. Part of the problem is that there are not enough judges to handle the caseloads. Some vacancies have been open for President Bush's entire term. Despite this, some liberal Senators prefer to disregard the concerns of the people and instead cater to liberal interest groups for political gain.