Judicial Nominations Op-Ed Sample

Courts Matter. Most people don’t think about it much, but the selection and appointment process for judges have a direct effect on our daily lives. As a [*organization*] advocate, I am dismayed by [*recent event or ongoing efforts/pattern*.]. I urge the Senate to support a federal judiciary that is of and for the people. I urge the Senate to confirm fair-minded jurists who are committed to upholding constitutional rights for everyone.

Judges confirmed to lifetime seats on the federal courts have a lasting impact on our daily lives and the lives of future generations. They hear cases and make decisions pertaining to every aspect of public policy — civil rights, abortion access, voting rights, gun safety, health care, immigration, LGBTQ equality, and more. [*Insert one sentence about your connection to any of the above issues, such as: As someone who relies on the affordable care act for health care, I and millions like me are relying on judges to uphold our access to affordable care*.]

Federal judges must be fair, independent, and qualified, and reflect the diversity of our nation. A fair judge respects equality and justice for all. This can be demonstrated through prior rulings or personal writings. An independent judge must prove that they will be impartial arbiters of the law, and not beholden to or influenced by outside parties or interests. A qualified judge has been objectively assessed for their experience, competence, principles, and temperament. And when I refer to federal judges, I mean ALL federal judges. Our district and circuit courts make the final call in over 99 percent of federal cases. Lower court judges have tremendous power and serve as the first and last line of defense when it comes to truly protecting the most vulnerable among us.

As such, it is critical that all federal court nominations are made with the best interests of our country and its people in mind. [*For NCJW advocates: Ultimately, we are commanded by the famous injunction in the Torah — Tzedek, Tzedek, Tirdof, or Justice, Justice, You Shall Pursue — imploring us to create a fair and impartial judiciary.*] So, what can any of us do to pursue justice and to ensure the appointment of judges who hold the values of the Constitution and the American people above their personal agenda? It is simple. Once a nominee has been announced, you can reach out to your senators’ offices, as well as contact Senate leadership and [members of the Senate Judiciary Committee](https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/about/members), to share your support or concerns.

Courts matter. Full stop. In order to ensure justice for all, we must advocate for fair, independent, and qualified judges. Learn about the latest nominees and find opportunities to take action at [courtsmatter.org](http://www.courtsmatter.org/).