



Wendy Vitter

President Trump nominated Wendy Vitter to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana on January 23, 2018. Vitter is anti-choice.

Career¹

- Bachelor of Arts, Sam Houston State University, 1982
- Juris Doctorate, Tulane Law School, 1986
- Law Clerk, Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office, 1983-1987
- Assistant District Attorney, Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office, 1987-1992
- Deputy Chief of Trials, Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office, 1989-1990
- Chief of Trials, Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office, 1990-1992
- Associate Attorney, Abbott & Meeks, 1992-1993
- Project Director, Roman Catholic Church of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, 2012-2013
- General Counsel to the Archdiocese, Roman Catholic Church of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, 2013-present

Record on Choice-Related Issues

In Her Own Words

- Vitter moderated a panel called “Abortion Hurts Women’s Health” at the Louisiana Right to Life annual conference in 2013.² During the hour-long panel, Vitter made numerous inflammatory and factually-incorrect statements, a selection of which are below:³
 - Vitter led the panel to discuss falsehoods about abortion, asking those on the panel to discuss a “connection between cancer and post-abortive women” and “infertility problems and... other health concerns... in post-abortive women.”
 - Vitter praised Texas’ egregious TRAP laws (later struck down by *Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt*) and Louisiana’s restrictions on access to abortion care: “Last year Texas led the nation in some very pro-life restrictive laws led by a very strong governor and just last week the one about the admitting privileges was struck down by the Court of Appeals. They’re taking it to the Supreme Court, but they are making great strides in making it very difficult to get abortions in Texas. And we’re going to be right there because our lobbying efforts in the Louisiana legislature are always, you know, right up front. The

pro-life forces are there. We're the ones who have mandated ultrasounds before anybody can have an abortion which has made a huge difference when a person sees that life in their body. Louisiana is always up front in the legislature.”

- After one of the panelists referenced the anti-abortion resources available on her website, including a brochure about “the four ways the pill kills,” Vitter encouraged the audience to, “download it and at your next physical, you walk into your pro-life doctor and say, ‘Have you thought about putting these facts or this brochure in your waiting room?’”
- When an audience member asked how to decide which anti-abortion causes to donate to, Vitter pointed them to Louisiana Right to Life and New Orleans Right to Life, saying, “I would call them and say ‘What do you know about this group I’m thinking of donating [to]?’”
- Vitter pushed the idea of publishing an annual list of “Louisiana doctors for life.” She said: “Every October there’s a list in the paper, an advertisement of Louisiana Lawyers for Life. Where are Louisiana doctors for life? ...Let’s put it as an action item to ask all of your doctors, ‘Would you sign something saying you’re a Louisiana doctor for life?’ and let’s publicize it. That’s a kind of list we need to get out to everybody.”
- At a 2009 campaign event for her husband, Vitter said, “I’m here to speak proudly for the issues we believe in. We choose to fight for life from conception to the end of life.”⁴
- Vitter spoke at a 2013 rally at the construction site of a then-new Planned Parenthood to protest the new clinic and abortion access in general.⁵ She said, “Planned Parenthood says they promote women’s health. It is the saddest of ironies that they kill over 150,000 females a year. The first step in promoting women’s health is to let them live.”⁶ She spoke along with other anti-abortion activists including Abby Johnson, founder of And Then There Were None – a group dedicated to “saving” clinic workers “from a road of darkness, of pure evil”⁷.
- Vitter spoke to the Livingston Parish Republican Women meeting at which she “related how [her] little son was upset by the death of a fish he had only a few days and then asked the group, ‘At what point do you become immune to the sanctity of life?’ She encouraged members and guests to be ‘turtles’ for the Republican Party and ‘stick out their necks and fight for the things that matter.”⁸
- Vitter criticized Hillary Clinton in a 1992 op-ed for her “progressive (to me frightening) notions of the family.”⁹

Notable Information

- Vitter was given the “Proudly Pro-Life Award” from Louisiana Right to Life.¹⁰
- Vitter served as honorary chair of the Notre Dame Seminary Priests for Life in 2013.¹¹
- Vitter ran a congressional campaign for her husband, anti-choice former-Sen. David Vitter (R-LA).¹²
- Vitter attended the 2015 March for Life with her husband, then-Sen. David Vitter (R-LA).¹³

March 27, 2018

Notes

¹ *Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees: Wendy Vitter*, UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/nominations/judicial?PageNum_rs=3& (last visited March 27, 2018)

² Benjamin Clapper, *From Our Executive Director...*, LOUISIANA RIGHT TO LIFE, http://www.prolifelouisiana.net/index.php?option=com_civicrm&task=civicrm/mailling/view&reset=1&id=27 (last visited Feb. 27, 2018)

³ Wendy Vitter, *Remarks on Abortion Hurts Women’s Health Panel at the Louisiana Needs Peace Conference* (Nov. 1-2, 2013), https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q6zJzIRr_EA&feature=youtu.be

⁴ William Johnson, *Wendy Vitter touts voter involvement*, DAILY WORLD (Nov. 4, 2009)

⁵ Claire Galofaro, *Uptown clinic roils emotions*, THE ADVOCATE (May 21, 2013)

⁶ Wendy Vitter, *Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees: Attachments to Question 12(d) Supplemental Response*, UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

⁷ Abby Johnson, *And Then There Were None*, ABBY JOHNSON (Nov. 21, 2011), <http://www.abbyjohnson.org/abbyjohnson/and-then-there-were-none>

⁸ Wendy Vitter, *Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees: Attachments to Question 12(d) Supplemental Response*, UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ *Vitters Honored for Their Dedication to the Pro-Life Cause*, LOUISIANA RIGHT TO LIFE, <http://myemail.constantcontact.com/Students--Be-the-PULSE-.html?soid=1101796400807&aid=rVGHc66TgRQ> (last visited Feb. 27, 2018)

¹¹ *Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees: Wendy Vitter*, UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Vitter%20SJQ.pdf> (last visited March 27, 2018)

¹² Bruce Egger, *Wendy Vitter has never been shy about standing her ground*, THE TIMES-PICAYUNE (July 21, 2007), http://blog.nola.com/times-picayune/2007/07/wendy_vitter_has_never_been_sh.html

¹³ *Vitter Introduced Pro-Life Bills In Honor of “March for Life,”* KPEL 96.5 (Jan. 21, 2015), <http://kpel965.com/vitter-introduces-pro-life-bills-in-honor-of-march-for-life/>