



William Ray II

President Trump nominated William Ray to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia on July 13, 2017.

Career

- Bachelor of Arts, University of Georgia, 1985ⁱ
- Master of Business, University of Georgia, 1986ⁱⁱ
- Juris Doctorate, University of Georgia, 1990ⁱⁱⁱ
- Trial attorney, Anderson, Davidson & Tate, 1990-1996^{iv}
- Senator, Georgia State Senate, 1996-2002^v
- Judge, Gwinnett County Superior Court, 2002-2012^{vi}
- Judge, Georgia Court of Appeals, 2012-present^{vii}

Record on Choice-Related Issues

Notable Information

- While he was a state senator, Ray wrote an op-ed highlighting his priorities for the 1997 session. Among them he included passing a bill to ban so-called “partial-birth” abortion. He wrote that he had “high hopes” for the bill, but that he didn’t expect it to advance past a committee led by Democrats.^{viii} Ray told a second newspaper that the ban was something he felt “strongly about.”^{ix}
 - The specific bill Ray referenced in his op-ed did not move out of committee^x, but Ray voted in favor of a similar ban enacted that year^{xi}. The measure criminalizes some abortion services and carries up to a five-year prison sentence for doctors.

Record on Other Key Issues

- While Ray was serving as its chair, the Gwinnett County Republican Party passed a resolution stating its strong opposition to “any plan, legislation, or resolution which may explicitly or implicitly condone homosexual behavior.”^{xii} He told a newspaper that the party’s intention in passing the resolution was “not to grant members of the homosexual community greater rights than exist in the general citizenry.”^{xiii}
- Ray voted against legislation to increase sentences for crimes motivated by a victim’s “actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, ethnicity,

gender, disability, or sexual orientation.”^{xiv} Ray told a newspaper that he opposed the bill because it provided “protection for some citizens, but not for others.”^{xv}

September 19, 2017

Notes

ⁱ http://www.gaappeals.us/biography/bio_judges.php?jname=William%20M.%20Ray

ⁱⁱ Ibid.

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid.

^{iv} Ibid.

^v Ibid.

^{vi} Ibid.

^{vii} Ibid.

^{viii} Billy Ray, *Welfare, teen driving among hottest bills*, FORSYTH COUNTY NEWS, March 21, 1997.

^{ix} Denise Johnson, *State senator begins term at capitol*, ALPHARETTA/ROSWELL NEIGHBOR, January 22, 1997.

^x S.B.123 (Ga. 1997)

^{xi} S.B.357 (Ga. 1997)

^{xii} Lucy Soto, *Republicans join fray over family values*, ATLANTA JOURNAL CONSTITUTION, August 26, 1993.

^{xiii} Ibid.

^{xiv} S.B.390 (Ga. 2000)

^{xv} Benita Dodd, *CONVERSATION STARTER: Should Georgia pass a hate crimes law?*, ATLANTA JOURNAL CONSTITUTION, March 11, 2000.