



Carl Nichols

President Trump nominated Carl Nichols to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on June 7, 2018. Nichols is anti-choice.

Career¹

- Bachelor of Arts, Dartmouth College, 1992
- Juris Doctorate, University of Chicago Law School, 1996
- Law Clerk, Hon. Laurence H. Silberman, U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, 1996-1997
- Law Clerk, Associate Justice Clarence Thomas, Supreme Court of the United States, 1997-1998
- Associate, Boies Schiller Flexner LLP, 1998-2001
- Partner, Boies Schiller Flexner LLP, 2002-2005
- Deputy Assistant Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Division, 2005-2008
- Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, 2008-2009
- Partner, Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale & Dorr LLP, 2010-present

Record on Choice-Related Issues

Court Cases

- Nichols represented a pharmacy in its challenge to an Illinois rule that stopped pharmacies from refusing to fill women's prescriptions for birth control.² The rule required pharmacies to dispense contraceptives, including emergency contraception, or if a pharmacist refused because he objected to birth control, to find a suitable alternative without delay.³ In the case, Nichols challenged the rule on the grounds that pharmacists who personally oppose emergency contraception should be able to refuse women their prescriptions.⁴

Notable Information

- Nichols is a member of the conservative, anti-choice Federalist Society.⁵ The Federalist Society is led by Leonard Leo, the anti-choice activist who is heavily involved in selecting Trump's Supreme Court and lower court nominees. Leo has been outspoken in his anti-choice views, calling abortion "an act of force" and "a threat to

human life,”⁶ and serves as co-chairman of Students for Life,⁷ a group whose mission is to “abolish abortion.”⁸

- Nichols clerked for anti-choice Associate Justice Clarence Thomas.

¹ *Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees: Carl John Nicols*, UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Nichols%20SJQ.pdf>

² *Morr-Fitz, Inc. v. Quinn*, 2012 IL App. (4th) 110398 (No. 4-11-0398)

³ *Who Decides?*, NARAL PRO-CHOICE AMERICA, <https://www.prochoiceamerica.org/state-law/illinois/>

⁴ *Morr-Fitz v. Quinn*, ACLU, <https://www.prochoiceamerica.org/state-law/illinois/> (last visited August 9, 2018)

⁵ *Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees: Carl John Nicols*, UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Nichols%20SJQ.pdf>

⁶ Jeffrey Toobin, *The Conservative Pipeline to the Supreme Court*, THE NEW YORKER (April 17, 2017), <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2017/04/17/the-conservative-pipeline-to-the-supreme-court>

⁷ *Board of Directors*, STUDENTS FOR LIFE, <http://studentsforlife.org/supporters/board-of-directors-1> (last visited July 5, 2018)

⁸ *Mission Statement*, STUDENTS FOR LIFE, <http://studentsforlife.org/about/mission-statement/> (last visited July 5, 2018)