



Clifton Corker

President Trump nominated Clifton Corker to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee on October 10, 2018. Corker is anti-choice.

Career¹

- B.B.A., James Madison University, 1990
- J.D., William & Mary Law School, 1993
- Clerk, U.S. Magistrate Judge Cynthia Kinser, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia, 1993-1994
- Volunteer, Federal Defender Services, 1994-1995
- Associate Attorney, Terry, Terry & Stapleton, 1995-1996
- Attorney, Law Office of Clifton Corker, 1996-2015
- U.S. Magistrate Judge, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee, 2015-present

Record on Choice-Related Issues

Notable Information

- When Corker was in college, he served as president of Students for America, a conservative club at James Madison University. The president of the JMU College Republicans at the time described the Republicans as “far more moderate than Students for America,” and various JMU students described the group as “narrow-minded” and “neo-Nazi.” The Students for America executive director described the group as opposed to “most abortions and all special privileges for homosexuals and minorities.” The treasurer of the organization at the time Corker was president described it as “a chance to speak out [against] abortion [and] gay rights.”² At one point, the group held a “mock funeral for aborted fetuses” on campus.³
- Corker wrote a number of far-right op-eds in college, including the following:
 - In an op-ed entitled “Bork views based on sound judgement,” Corker defended the views of controversial, anti-choice Robert Bork – failed Supreme Court nominee – in response to an editorial that criticized Bork’s views. He wrote, “Bork’s views on women’s rights, dealing with the equal protection clause, are based on sound judgement... It is possible to find reasonable differences between genders, simply because of the obvious physical differences. In the

case of gender, Bork has said that it will depend on the issue. Combat is an example of an instance where this is applicable. Women's rights will not suffer at all [if they are not allowed to participate in combat]." He continued, writing that the authors of the editorial critical of Bork "seem[] to possess a propensity for fatuousness. They challenge Bork's statement, 'Married couples challenging a ban on contraceptives had no greater rights than utility companies that want to escape smoke pollution laws,' with contemptment. In fact they feel indignant, which should be expected from those who fail to understand Bork's statement. He is essentially saying that breaking the law behind closed doors is not constitutionally protected simply because the breach in law was done privately."⁴

- Corker wrote an op-ed about the "evil spirit of liberalism...ooz[ing] out of the hearts and minds of those it hold captive, seeking to add more to its chains of slavery." He wrote: "You see, this is what happens to otherwise normal people when [liberalism] gets them. They lose their proclivity toward rationality. They begin to see the world as a flower whose petals are so pretty. 'Why can't we be a flower?' they ask. 'Let's protect ourselves. Let's not help those people who want to restore freedom to their country. Let's just look at this flower and feel the wonderful peace, the wonderful feeling of serenity.'" And, just like it was in *Of Mice and Men*, as we are caught in the ecstasy of the flower, seeing a beautiful, peaceful future, someone is standing behind us with a loaded pistol to our head."⁵
- Corker made political donations to anti-choice campaigns, including to Mike Huckabee's campaign for president.⁶

¹ *Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees: Clifton Leland Corker*, UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Corker%20SJQ.pdf> (last visited December 12, 2018)

² Alex Pedersen, *Students for America faces much opposition*, *The Breeze* (October 10, 1988)

³ Clifton Corker, *Questions for the Record*, United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary, https://www.fec.gov/data/receipts/individual-contributions/?two_year_transaction_period=2008&contributor_name=Corker%2C+Clifton&min_date=01%2F01%2F2007&max_date=12%2F31%2F2008 (last visited December 18, 2018)

⁴ Clifton Corker, *Bork views based on sound judgement*, *THE BREEZE* (Oct. 8, 1987)

⁵ Clifton Corker, *Evil liberal spirit returns*, *The Breeze* (March 24, 1988)

⁶ *FEC Search for "Corker, Clifton"*, https://www.fec.gov/data/receipts/individual-contributions/?two_year_transaction_period=2008&contributor_name=Corker%2C+Clifton&min_date=01%2F01%2F2007&max_date=12%2F31%2F2008 (last visited December 17, 2018)