



Stephen McGlynn

President Trump nominated Stephen McGlynn to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois on December 18, 2019. McGlynn is extremely hostile to reproductive freedom.

Career¹

- Bachelor of Arts, University of Dayton, 1983
- Juris Doctorate, Saint Louis University School of Law, 1987
- Associate, McGlynn & McGlynn, 1987-1998
- General Counsel/Corporate Secretary/Member of Board of Directors, East Saint Louis Small Business Development Council, 1996-1999
- Partner, McGlynn & McGlynn, 1998-2005, 2006-2010, 2012-2013
- General Counsel, A3M Corp. LLC, 1997-2003
- General Counsel/Incorporator/Member of Board of Directors, Gateway Holding LLC, 1999-2002
- General Counsel/Incorporator, Surface Technologies, Inc., 2000-2002
- General Counsel/Member of Board of Directors, Metropolitan Health Systems, Inc., 2003
- Appellate Court Justice, State of Illinois 5th District Appellate Court, 2005-2006
- Member of Board of Directors, Catholic Social Services of Southern Illinois, 2002-2012
- Chairman of the Board, Catholic Social Services of Southern Illinois, 2009-2012
- Board Director, Citizens Bank of Chatsworth, 2013
- Circuit Judge, State of Illinois 20th Judicial Circuit, 2010-2012, 2013-present

Record on Reproductive Freedom

- McGlynn is reported to have been “highly influential in one of the state’s largest pro-life organizations.”² McGlynn was a member of the anti-reproductive freedom organization Illinois Federation for Right to Life in 2007.³ The Illinois Federation for Right to Life is a “non-profit organization that serves as a statewide coordinating body for local pro-life individuals and groups” that “has been working to end abortion” since 1973.⁴
- As a candidate for the Fifth Appellate District of Illinois in 2012, McGlynn received the endorsements of the anti-reproductive freedom Illinois Citizens for Life PAC and the anti-reproductive freedom Illinois Federation for Right-to-Life PAC.⁵ The Chairman of

the Illinois Citizens for Life PAC, Ralph Rivera, said “those of us who have known Judge Stephen McGlynn for years have known his deep respect for all human life from conception to natural death, and this is exactly the kind of person we need on our Illinois Judiciary.”⁶ McGlynn remarked that he had the “honor” of their endorsements.⁷

- As a candidate for judicial office for the Fifth Appellate District of Illinois in 2012, McGlynn was found “Qualified” by anti-reproductive freedom Illinois Citizens for Life in their General Election Information rating.⁸ McGlynn was again found “Qualified” for the same position by Illinois Citizens for Life in 2014.⁹
- As a candidate for the Fifth Appellate District of Illinois in 2012, McGlynn was endorsed by Family-PAC, also known as Illinois Family Action, the legislative and lobbying arm of Illinois Family Institute.¹⁰ Illinois Family Action “works to advance public policies to protect the sanctity of human life, Christian marriage and the natural family” and other causes.¹¹ Illinois Family Institute has been designated as an anti-LGBTQ hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center.¹²
- McGlynn served as the Chairman of the “Platform & Resolution Committee” for the 2004 Illinois Republican Party platform. The platform developed by McGlynn’s committee stated that the party commits itself “to protect the fundamental right to life and dignity of every life including the lives of the unborn.”¹³ The platform further stated: “The paramount right of an individual is the right to life. From the first beat of a heart to the last breath drawn, we recognize each individual’s dignity and worth. Government is obligated by law and by deed, to protect and defend each individual’s right to life, not only from government action, but also against a threat from another. The right to life is of such primacy that no government entity nor any person shall be allowed to take another’s life without due process of law and only under the most compelling and grave circumstances. Government must defend and protect those who by age, disability or other affliction cannot protect themselves. This includes the protection of the unborn child.”
- While serving as the co-chair of the Illinois Republican Party, McGlynn supported and defended comments made by staunchly anti-reproductive freedom Republican Senate candidate Alan Keyes. Keyes, speaking of his Democratic opponent in the 2006 Illinois Senate race, Barack Obama, said that “Jesus Christ would not cast a vote for him” and that Obama was a “left wing extremist” for his support for reproductive freedom.¹⁴ McGlynn defended Keyes’ comments by stating: “I’m comforted by political leaders that think there’s something more important than themselves and their own power.”¹⁵

- As chairman of the St. Clair County Republican Party in Illinois, McGlynn speculated that anti-reproductive freedom votes cast by a state senator in Illinois helped the state senator win reelection.¹⁶
- McGlynn has donated to anti-reproductive freedom candidates including Rep. John Shimkus (R-IL-15) and Mike Bost (R-IL-12).¹⁷

June 17, 2020

¹ *Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees: Stephen Patrick McGlynn*, UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY.

² Eric Krol, *Sizing Up the Six People Who Could Replace Topinka*, CHICAGO DAILY HERALD (Dec. 10, 2004).

³ *Id.*

⁴ *About the IFRL*, ILLINOIS FEDERATION FOR TO LIFE (accessed Mar. 17, 2020), <https://ifrl-blog.blogspot.com/p/about-ifrl.html>.

⁵ *Judge Stephen McGlynn Touts Endorsements*, SHELBY COUNTY NEWS (Oct. 9, 2012), <http://shelbycountynews.net/judge-steve-mcglynn-touts-endorsements-p22335-1.htm>.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *November 6, 2012, Illinois General Election Information*, ILLINOIS CITIZENS FOR LIFE, <https://blogs.chicagotribune.com/files/gen12.pdf>.

⁹ *November 4, 2014, Illinois General Election Information*, ILLINOIS CITIZENS FOR LIFE, <https://illinoisfamilyaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/IL-Citizens-for-Life-scorecard.pdf>.

¹⁰ *Judge Stephen McGlynn Touts Endorsements*, SHELBY COUNTY NEWS (Oct. 9, 2012), <http://shelbycountynews.net/judge-steve-mcglynn-touts-endorsements-p22335-1.htm>.

¹¹ *About*, ILLINOIS FAMILY ACTION, <https://illinoisfamilyaction.org/about/> (last visited Mar. 18, 2020).

¹² *Groups in Illinois*, SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER, <https://www.splcenter.org/states/illinois> (last visited Mar. 18, 2020).

¹³ *Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees: Stephen Patrick McGlynn*, UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY.

¹⁴ William Lamb, *Unlikely Competitors: Keyes Bases His Candidacy on Issues of "Moral Conscience"*, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH (Oct. 24, 2004).

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ Patrick E. Gauen, *GOP Official Defends Democrat Bradford*, SHELBY COUNTY NEWS (Oct. 17, 1997).

¹⁷ *OpenSecrets Donor Lookup: Stephen McGlynn*, <https://www.opensecrets.org/donor-lookup/results?name=Stephen+McGlynn>.