



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 anti-reproductive freedom groups Illinois Citizens for Life PAC and Illinois Federation for Right-to-Life PAC.⁵ Illinois Citizens for Life PAC is “one of the

main pro-life political action committees in Illinois.”⁶ The mission of the Illinois Federation for Right-to-Life PAC “is to help those who want their vote to protect the unborn” and “elect men and women of all political parties who will speak for and vote for legislation to protect the first and most important right for all of us – our right to life.”⁷ In preparing their endorsements, Illinois Federation for Right-to-Life PAC “considers voting records, survey responses and input from other established pro-life/pro-family groups.”⁸

- 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.⁹ McGlynn was again found “Qualified” for the same position by Illinois Citizens for Life in 2014.¹⁰
- As a candidate for the Fifth Appellate District of Illinois in 2012, McGlynn was endorsed by Family-PAC.¹¹ Family-PAC is affiliated with Illinois Family Institute, an organization “dedicated to upholding and re-affirming marriage, family, life, and liberty” and other causes.¹² Family-PAC has previously stated that it bases its endorsements on completion of the Illinois Family Institute’s candidate questionnaire.¹³ Illinois Family Institute has been designated as an anti-LGBTQ hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center.¹⁴
- 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.”¹⁵ 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.” In 2008, a conservative blogger and one of McGlynn’s “closest friends” stated that McGlynn was the “primary author” of the platform who “did the writing” and “came up with the full draft.”¹⁶ During the writing process, McGlynn reportedly suggested “eliminating the usual section devoted to pro-life and instead imbuing the platform with a pro-life view from the start and defining the unborn as a human person entitled to all the protections of the constitution throughout the document.” The blogger described the platform as “the most comprehensively pro-life platform in the nation.”

- While serving as a co-chair for 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.¹⁷ 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.”¹⁸
- 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.¹⁹
- McGlynn has donated to anti-reproductive freedom candidates including Rep. John Shimkus (R-IL-15) and Mike Bost (R-IL-12).²⁰

July 30, 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.*; *Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees: Stephen Patrick McGlynn*, UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY.

⁴ *About the IFRL*, ILLINOIS FEDERATION FOR TO LIFE <https://ifrl-blog.blogspot.com/p/about-ifrl.html> (last visited June 24, 2020).

⁵ Bethany Krajelis, *More Money Flows Into Fifth District Race as Election Approaches*, Madison – St. Clair Record (Oct. 10, 2012), <https://madisonrecord.com/stories/510574119-more-money-flows-into-fifth-district-race-as-election-approaches> (last visited June 24, 2020).

⁶ *About Us*, Illinois Right to Life Action, <https://illinoisrighttolifeaction.org/about-us/> (last visited June 24, 2020).

⁷ Illinois Federation for Right to Life Political Action Committee, *2020 Primary IFRL PAC Endorsements* (Feb. 25, 2020), <https://ifrlpac.blogspot.com/> (last visited June 24, 2020).

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *November 6, 2012, Illinois General Election Information*, ILLINOIS CITIZENS FOR LIFE, <https://blogs.chicagotribune.com/files/gen12.pdf>.

¹⁰ *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>.

¹¹ Bethany Krajelis, *More Money Flows Into Fifth District Race as Election Approaches*, Madison – St. Clair Record (Oct. 10, 2012), <https://madisonrecord.com/stories/510574119-more-money-flows-into-fifth-district-race-as-election-approaches> (last visited June 24, 2020).

¹² *About*, ILLINOIS FAMILY INSTITUTE, <https://illinoisfamily.org/about/> (last visited Jun. 22, 2020).

¹³ *Family PAC Announces Primary Election Endorsements*, Illinois Review (Feb. 9, 2016), <https://illinoisreview.typepad.com/illinoisreview/2016/02/family-pac-announces-primary-election-endorsements.html> (last visited June 24, 2020).

¹⁴ *Groups in Illinois*, SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER, <https://www.splcenter.org/states/illinois> (last visited Mar. 18, 2020).

¹⁵ *Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees: Stephen Patrick McGlynn*, UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY.

¹⁶ Charlie Johnston, *For a Pro-Life Platform*, *Illinois Review* (May 4, 2008), <https://illinoisreview.typepad.com/illinoisreview/2008/05/for-a-pro-life.html>.

¹⁷ William Lamb, *Unlikely Competitors: Keyes Bases His Candidacy on Issues of "Moral Conscience"*, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH (Oct. 24, 2004).

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ Patrick E. Gauhen, *GOP Official Defends Democrat Bradford*, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH (Oct. 17, 1997).

²⁰ *OpenSecrets Donor Lookup: Stephen McGlynn*, <https://www.opensecrets.org/donor-lookup/results?name=Stephen+McGlynn>.