



Barry Ashe

President Trump nominated Barry Ashe to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana on September 28, 2017.

Career

- Bachelor of Arts, Tulane University, 1978¹
- Lieutenant, U.S. Navy, 1978-1981²
- Juris Doctorate, Tulane University Law School, 1984³
- Clerk, Judge Carolyn Dineen King, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, 1984-1985⁴
- Partner, Stone Pigman Walther Wittmann, 1985-present⁵

Record on Choice-Related Issues

Notable Information

- Ashe served on the board of Christian Health Ministries Foundation (CHM), a religiously-affiliated healthcare cost-sharing organization. Organizations like CHM do not provide actual health insurance but instead ask for monthly gifts from members; these gifts are pooled together and available in limited amounts to members needing health services. CHM restricts its membership to “Christians living by biblical standards.”⁶

According to its membership guidelines, CHM refuses to cover birth control, fertility treatment, surrogate procedures, sterilization, reversal procedures, and abortion.⁷ Additionally, CHM refuses to provide maternity care to “unwed mothers,” stating that “CHM members have agreed NOT to share medical bills for pregnancies of unwed mothers. Instead, CHM recognizes that in such circumstances the assistance needed goes far beyond financial aid. Therefore, we encourage you to seek help from a [crisis] pregnancy center if you find yourself in this situation. That agency will be best suited to address all of your needs – spiritual, emotional, financial, and physical. You are in our prayers.”⁸

- Ashe represented a local school board against a challenge to its resolution mandating that teachers read a disclaimer before presenting any information on evolution to students.⁹ The district court held that the resolution was passed for religious reasons and effectively endorsed religion in violation of the Establishment Clause.

- Ashe has donated to anti-choice politicians, including President George W. Bush, former Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, former Senator David Vitter, Senator Bill Cassidy, and Senate Judiciary committee member John Kennedy.¹⁰

November 14, 2017

Notes

¹ Barry W. Ashe, STONE PIGMAN WALTHER WITTMAN, at <https://www.stonepigman.com/attorneys-Barry-Ashe.html>.

² *President Donald J. Trump Announces Eighth Wave of Judicial Candidates*, THE WHITE HOUSE, September 28, 2017, at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/28/president-donald-j-trump-announces-eighth-wave-judicial-candidates>.

³ Barry W. Ashe, STONE PIGMAN WALTHER WITTMAN, at <https://www.stonepigman.com/attorneys-Barry-Ashe.html>.

⁴ *President Donald J. Trump Announces Eighth Wave of Judicial Candidates*, THE WHITE HOUSE, September 28, 2017, at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/09/28/president-donald-j-trump-announces-eighth-wave-judicial-candidates>.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Christian Healthcare Ministries, “Christian Healthcare Ministries Guidelines,” (2017), available at <http://www.chministries.org/guidelines.aspx> (last visited Nov. 14, 2017).

⁷ *Ibid.* at 30, 46.

⁸ *Ibid.* at 32.

⁹ *Freiler v. Tangipahoa Parish Board of Education*, 975 F.Supp. 819

¹⁰ “Donor Lookup,” Open Secrets, at <https://www.opensecrets.org/donor-lookup/results?name=barry+ashe> (last visited Nov. 14, 2017).