



Jonathan Kobes

President Trump nominated Jonathan Kobes to serve on the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals on June 7, 2018. Kobes is anti-choice.

Career¹

- Bachelor of Arts, Dordt College, 1996
- Juris Doctorate, Harvard Law School, 2000
- Clerk, Hon. Roger L. Wollman, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, 2000-2001
- Clerk, Woods, Fuller, Shultz & Smith, 2001
- Honors Attorney, Central Intelligence Agency, 2002-2003
- Assistant United States Attorney, U.S. Attorney's Office, District of South Dakota, 2003-2005
- Associate, Murphy, Goldhammer & Prendergast, LLP, 2005-2008
- Counsel, Advisor, and Senior Counsel, POET LLC, 2008-2012
- Senior Regulatory Counsel, DuPont Pioneer, 2012-2013
- Director of Corporate Compliance, Raven Industries, 2013-2014
- Deputy Transition Director, U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds, 2014-2015
- Political Fund Designee, U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds, 2014-2016
- Deputy Chief of Staff and Counsel, U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds, 2015-2016
- Ethics Certification Officer, U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds, 2014-2018
- General Counsel, U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds, 2016-present

Record on Choice-Related Issues

Court Cases

- Kobes represented fake women's health centers, also known as crisis pregnancy centers, pro bono in *Planned Parenthood of Minnesota v. Rounds*. Kobes argued on their behalf for an anti-choice biased counseling law that requires women to receive a state-mandated lecture prior to accessing abortion care. The law obligates abortion providers to tell a woman seeking abortion care that abortion ends "the life of a whole, separate, unique, living human being," that she has an "existing relationship" with the "unborn human being," and that abortion increases the likelihood of suicide. Thanks in part to Kobes' advocacy, that law remains on the books harming South Dakota women to this day.

Notable Information

- In 2012, Kobes served as a board member for Bethany Christian Services, a fake women’s health center in South Dakota.² Fake women’s health centers like Bethany Christian Services lie, shame, and intentionally mislead women in order to block them from accessing the full range of reproductive healthcare options, including abortion.
- Kobes has worked in various capacities for anti-choice Sen. Mike Rounds (R-SD) since 2014. Rounds has taken 39 anti-choice votes in that time since joining the Senate in 2015.³
- Kobes has been a member of the conservative, anti-choice Federalist Society.⁴ 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,”⁵ and serves as co-chairman of Students for Life,⁶ a group whose mission is to “abolish abortion.”⁷

Record on Other Key Issues

- Kobes has been a member of the National Rifle Association.⁸
- Kobes served as a poll watcher for Mitt Romney’s failed 2012 presidential campaign.⁹

August 2, 2018

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

² *Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees: Jonathan Allen Kobes*, UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Kobes%20SJQ.pdf>

³ *Congressional Record on Choice*, NARAL PRO-CHOICE AMERICA (2015-2017)

⁴ *Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees: Jonathan Allen Kobes*, UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Kobes%20SJQ.pdf>

⁵ 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>

⁶ *Board of Directors*, STUDENTS FOR LIFE, <http://studentsforlife.org/supporters/board-of-directors-1> (last visited July 5, 2018)

⁷ *Mission Statement*, STUDENTS FOR LIFE, <http://studentsforlife.org/about/mission-statement/> (last visited July 5, 2018)

⁸ *Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees: Jonathan Allen Kobes*, UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Kobes%20SJQ.pdf>

⁹ *Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees: Jonathan Allen Kobes*, UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Kobes%20SJQ.pdf>