



Michael Liburdi

President Trump nominated Michael Liburdi to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona on January 16, 2019. Liburdi is anti-choice.

Career¹

- Bachelor of Science, Arizona State University, 1998
- Juris Doctorate, Arizona State University, 2002
- Clerk, Hon. Ruth McGregor, Supreme Court of Arizona, 2002-2003
- Associate, Perkins Coie Brown & Bain P.A., 2003-2008
- Litigation Staff Attorney, Federal Election Commission, 2008
- Associate, Perkins Coie, 2008-2011
- Adjunct Professor, Arizona State University, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, 2010-present
- Associate, Snell & Wilmer LLP, 2011-2013
- Partner, Snell & Wilmer LLP, 2014
- General Counsel, Arizona Governor Doug Ducey, 2015-2018
- Shareholder, Greenberg Traurig LLP, 2019-present

Record on Choice-Related Issues

Notable Information

- Liburdi served as chairman of the Arizona Right to Life PAC for five years, from 2010-2014.²
- Liburdi has close ties to staunch anti-choice Gov. Doug Ducey (R-AZ). While Liburdi was serving as chairman of the Arizona Right to Life PAC, the group endorsed Ducey's gubernatorial campaign.³ When Ducey was elected, he hired Liburdi to be his chief counsel.⁴
 - While Liburdi was serving in the Ducey administration, Ducey signed into law a ridiculous anti-choice bill that requires women to fill out a "checklist" justifying their reasons for accessing abortion care.⁵ The law also requires Arizona abortion providers to turn over the information they collect in these checklists to the state government.

- Liburdi has used his personal twitter account to express opinions on abortion and reproductive rights:
 - He wrote, “Media coverage of #HobbyLobby overblown and fanatical. Case applied only to closely held corps and 4 post-contraceptive measures.” When another user pointed out that “over 90% of businesses in the US are closely held. And contraception is contraception,” Liburdi responded, “objections limited 2 morning afters and 2 IUDs. No complaints about 16 other birth control methods.”⁶
 - He expressed support for a law requiring young women to get parental consent before accessing abortion care. Liburdi tweeted, “At a minimum I’d want to know if my 14-yr-old daughter gets an abortion bc of rape.”⁷ Placing restrictions like parental consent on a young woman’s access to abortion can delay her from seeking earlier, safer care, thus putting her health at risk.
 - The rest of Liburdi’s twitter account reads like a list of GOP talking points. He recently retweeted a tweet from former Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) which discussed “dem obstruction” of judicial nominees and advocated for the senate to work nights and weekends to confirm all of President Trump’s judicial nominees, of which he is now one.⁸ He also retweeted a piece that called Saturday Night Live cold opens “unfunny, elitist pieces of liberal progranda.”⁹
- Liburdi served on anti-choice former Sen. Jeff Flake’s judicial selection advisory commission.¹⁰
- Liburdi is active in the anti-choice, conservative Federalist Society.¹¹ 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,”¹² and serves as co-chairman of Students for Life,¹³ a group whose mission is to “abolish abortion.”¹⁴
 - In an interview about his work selecting judges for the Arizona Supreme Court, the interviewer asked Liburdi if he had a shot at being chosen. Liburdi responded by suggesting that the interviewer “start lobbying the Federalist Society right now,” all but admitting that he, like President Trump, defers to the Federalist Society when it comes to judicial picks.¹⁵
- Liburdi has donated to anti-choice politicians including Martha McSally and Jeff Flake.¹⁶

Record on Other Key Issues

- Liburdi is a staunch partisan. He has spent much of his career doing political law, and has been employed by numerous anti-choice political campaigns and PACs in various roles:
 - Campaign counsel, Ducey for Governor (2018)
 - Campaign counsel, Wendy Rogers (2018)
 - Republican precinct committeeman, Grahawk Precint (2014-2018)
 - Campaign counsel, Ducey for Governor (2014)
 - Legal counsel, McSally for Congress (2012, 2014)
 - Campaign counsel, Jeff Flake for U.S. Senate (2012)
 - Campaign counsel, Paul Gosar for Congress (2012)
 - Campaign counsel, Senate Victory Fund (Republican PAC) (2012)
 - Legal counsel, Republican House Victory (2012)
 - Republican precinct committeeman, Terravita Precinct (2006-2008)
 - Republican precinct committeeman, Chandler AZ (2003-2005)
- Liburdi served as director of the Arizona Republican Lawyers Association for five years.¹⁷ He was a member through 2018.
- Liburdi told a reporter that he “never did work on a national political matter” after his firm was acquired by Perkins Coie “just because it was all Democratic-oriented.”¹⁸
- Liburdi has publicly supported splitting the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.¹⁹ Republicans, long unsatisfied with rulings coming out of the Ninth Circuit, have sought to split the Court in hopes of creating a new, more conservative circuit that would find in their favor more often. Republicans in Arizona have been upset with Ninth Circuit rulings related to reproductive rights, including a 2013 ruling that struck the state’s efforts to defund Planned Parenthood. Observers agree that rulings like that one largely fuel Republican efforts to split the Circuit.²⁰

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

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

³ *Arizona Right to Life*, PROJECT VOTE SMART, <https://votesmart.org/interest-group/41/arizona-right-to-life#.XFydzapKiUk> (last visited February 7, 2019)

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

⁵ *Invasive Arizona Law Seeks to Force Women to Share Personal Information with Government*, PLANNED PARENTHOOD (April 16, 2018), <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/about-us/newsroom/press-releases/invasive-arizona-law-seeks-to-force-women-to-share-personal-information-with-government>

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- ⁶ Mike Liburdi (@mliburdi), TWITTER (June 30, 2014, 11:51 AM), <https://twitter.com/mliburdi/status/483654170797682688>
- ⁷ Mike Liburdi (@mliburdi), TWITTER (Oct. 21, 2014, 8:06 PM), <https://twitter.com/mliburdi/status/524728466244370434>
- ⁸ Sen. Chuck Grassley (@ChuckGrassley), TWITTER (June 5, 2018, 10:54 AM), <https://twitter.com/ChuckGrassley/status/1004028655901859840>
- ⁹ Mollie Hemingway (@MZHemingway), TWITTER (May 13, 2018, 10:49 PM), <https://twitter.com/MZHemingway/status/995873588887609344>
- ¹⁰ *Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees: Michael Liburdi*, UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Michael%20Liburdi%20SJQ%20-%20PUBLIC.pdf>
- ¹¹ *Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees: Michael Liburdi*, UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Michael%20Liburdi%20SJQ%20-%20PUBLIC.pdf>
- ¹² 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>
- ¹³ *Board of Directors*, STUDENTS FOR LIFE, <http://studentsforlife.org/supporters/board-of-directors-1> (last visited July 5, 2018)
- ¹⁴ *Mission Statement*, STUDENTS FOR LIFE, <http://studentsforlife.org/about/mission-statement/> (last visited July 5, 2018)
- ¹⁵ *Supreme Court Nomination, Copper Talk: Arizona's Premier Political Podcast* (Feb. 7, 2017)
- ¹⁶ *Donor Lookup: Michael Liburdi*, OPEN SECRETS, <https://www.opensecrets.org/donor-lookup/results?name=Michael+Liburdi> (last visited Feb. 7, 2019)
- ¹⁷ *Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees: Michael Liburdi*, UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Michael%20Liburdi%20SJQ%20-%20PUBLIC.pdf>
- ¹⁸ Carmen Forman, *Mike Liburdi: Takes flight on political law*, ARIZONA CAPITOL TIMES (June 11, 2018)
- ¹⁹ Howard Fischer, *Governor wants to split 9th Circuit*, SIERRA VISTA HERALD (Jan. 28, 2016)
- ²⁰ Jeremy Duda and Luige del Puerto, *Ducey wants Arizona out of Ninth Circuit*, THE ARIZONA CAPITOL TIMES (Jan. 28, 2016)