



## Douglas Cole

President Trump nominated Douglas Cole to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio on May 6, 2019. Cole is anti-choice.

### Career<sup>1</sup>

- Bachelor of Arts, Ripon College, 1986
- Bachelor of Science, University of Wisconsin, 1988
- Juris Doctor, University of Chicago Law School, 1993
- Law Clerk, Hon. Frank H. Easterbrook, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, 1993-1994
- Associate, Kirkland & Ellis, 1994-1997
- Visiting Assistant Professor of Law, University of Oklahoma, College of Law, 1997-1998
- Of Counsel, Zeiger & Carpenter, 1998-2000
- Assistant Professor of Law, Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law, 2000-2003
- State Solicitor of Ohio, Office of the Ohio Attorney General, 2003-2006
- Partner, Jones Day, 2006-2011
- Partner, Organ Cole, 2011-present

### Record on Choice-Related Issues

#### Court Cases

- Cole defended an Ohio law that requires women to wait 24 hours after receiving an in-person lecture by a physician before accessing abortion care.<sup>2</sup> This type of abortion restriction puts unnecessary burdens on women seeking care, especially women in rural areas, and is insulting, implying that women aren't capable of making healthcare decisions for themselves. Cole also defended another provision of the law that limited young women's access to abortion by restricting their access to judicial bypass proceedings. That provision was struck down.<sup>3</sup>
- Cole defended Ohio's aggressive enforcement of its TRAP (Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers) provisions in an attempt to shutter a Dayton abortion provider.<sup>4</sup> The clinic was nearly forced to close because it was unable to meet these burdensome and medically unnecessary restrictions not imposed on other medical professionals.

#### Notable Information

- Cole as spoken at several events hosted by the conservative, anti-choice Federalist Society.<sup>5</sup> 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,”<sup>6</sup> and serves as co-chairman of Students for Life,<sup>7</sup> a group whose mission is to “abolish abortion.”<sup>8</sup>
- Cole has made campaign contributions to anti-choice politicians including Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) and former Rep. Pat Tiberi (R-OH).
- Cole signed letters supporting fellow anti-choice Trump judicial nominees Eric Murphy and Chad Readler, now sitting federal judges.<sup>9</sup>

May 29, 2019

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

<sup>2</sup> *Cincinnati Women’s Services, Inc. v. Taft*, 468 F. 3d 361 (6th Cir. 2006)

<sup>3</sup> *Cincinnati Women’s Services, Inc. v. Taft*, 466 F. Supp 2d 934, 945 (S.D. Ohio 2005)

<sup>4</sup> *Women’s Medical Professional Corp. v. Baird*, 438 F. 3d 595 (6th Cir. 2006)

<sup>5</sup> *Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees: Douglas Russell Cole*, UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Douglas%20R.%20Cole%20SJQ%20-%20PUBLIC.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> 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>

<sup>7</sup> *Board of Directors*, STUDENTS FOR LIFE, <http://studentsforlife.org/supporters/board-of-directors-1> (last visited July 5, 2018)

<sup>8</sup> *Mission Statement*, STUDENTS FOR LIFE, <http://studentsforlife.org/about/mission-statement/> (last visited July 5, 2018)

<sup>9</sup> *Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees: Douglas Russell Cole*, UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Douglas%20R.%20Cole%20SJQ%20-%20PUBLIC.pdf>