



Michael Truncale

President Trump nominated Michael Truncale to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas on January 23, 2018. Truncale is anti-choice.

Career¹

- Bachelor of Business Administration, Lamar University, 1978
- Master of Business Administration, The University of North Texas, 1980
- Law Clerk, Sharpe, Ward, Ross, McDaniel, and Price, 1981
- Juris Doctorate, Southern Methodist University, 1985
- Associate, Orgain, Bell & Tucker LLP, 1985-1991
- Partner, Orgain, Bell & Tucker LLP, 1991-present

Record on Choice-Related Issues

Notable Information

- Truncale ran for the U.S. House of Representatives in 2012. Although, he was ultimately defeated in the primary, he ran as an opponent to abortion.
 - His campaign website listed him as in favor of “strong pro-life and pro-family values” and opposed to “liberalism and socialism, Obamacare, [and] amnesty.”²
 - Truncale participated in various interviews throughout his campaign, during which he elaborated on his extreme anti-choice views:
 - He bragged, “I was the only congressional candidate to participate in a recent March for Life, ecumenical March for Life.”³
 - He railed against the Affordable Care Act, calling it “a threat to citizens,” and stating, “We must repeal Obamacare.”⁴
 - When asked about the most important issue in the race, he said, “I, as a citizen taxpayer dedicated to action, I am committed to standing up to the politicians and delivering results on issues like... overturning Obamacare... and pro-life and pro-family laws.”⁵
 - He spoke about the Affordable Care Act’s contraceptive-coverage policy, stating: “This recent assault on the Catholic Church is something that people of all faiths should be concerned about, and I’m talking about the most recent requirements of the Obama administration and the bureaucrats in Washington regarding contraceptives, to require Catholics to purchase contraception. That’s an assault. Why? Because

now you have government telling religion what to do. And it's a serious matter. It's the same with the second amendment. I believe in second amendment rights. And once you start chiseling away the second amendment rights, once you start chiseling away the first amendment rights with regard to religion, then all of our liberties are at risk."⁶

- He spoke about his "lifelong, conservative republican values," and said, "I am a conservative by conviction, not of convenience."⁷
- He said he had been appointed by the Texas senators to the federal judicial selection committee, "because of my conservative views on courts. I do not believe that judges should legislate from the bench and overlook the plain meaning of the United States Constitution. That's how we've gotten into a lot of trouble."⁸

- In notes from two speeches to the Golden Triangle Republican Women, Truncale made inflammatory statements about Wendy Davis and abortion rights. He wrote that Davis' "claim to fame is the fact that she wants to kill babies five months into term" and that she "kills little girls."⁹
- Truncale wrote an article for the Golden Triangle Republican Women Gazette entitled *The Death of Antonin Scalia is the Primary Reason We Should Vote for Donald J. Trump*. In it, Truncale warned that if Trump were to lose the presidential election, "the seat vacated by Justice Scalia would soon be filled by another liberal, creating a majority of five liberal justices who would ensure liberal outcomes in all controversial decisions." Truncale went on to imagine various "liberal" outcomes, including the following:¹⁰
 - "Although the *Hobby Lobby* decision narrowly protected employers against forced funding of abortions and the *Little Sisters of the Poor* decision narrowly avoided the question of whether Catholic nuns must provide and pay for contraception in their health insurance plans, we can expect more 'modifications' to the Bill of Rights from a 5-4 liberal Supreme Court. For example, liberals want to require pharmacists to sell abortion drugs despite religious objections and to force Christian photographers to use their artistic skills to celebrate same-sex weddings."
 - "The liberal Supreme Court will also consider President Obama's actions in rewriting laws like Title IX, which prohibits discrimination based on sex—by redefining the word 'sex' to mean 'gender identity' or even a person's 'internal sense of gender.'"
 - "Liberals/progressives will also attempt to create new 'rights' on everything from receiving welfare payments to a prohibition on racial disparities in criminal justice outcomes, a new exception to the First Amendment that would prohibit 'offensive or hateful' speech, and a prohibition of sex-segregated restrooms."

- “The next justice appointed will likely cast the deciding vote on whether to continue to recognize our individual rights to ‘keep and bear Arms,’ or whether to interpret that right so narrowly as to effectively extinguish that right.”
- Truncale later praised the nomination of anti-choice Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch: “This nominee is exceptionally qualified for this position and he’ll offer great leadership on the U.S. Supreme Court because he’ll hold true to the principles of Justice Scalia, who believed that the Constitution was written with a specific intent that should be followed and that the original words of the Constitution should govern this land.”¹¹
- Truncale has donated to anti-choice politicians including Donald Trump, John Cornyn, and Ted Cruz.¹²
- Truncale is a member of the conservative Federalist Society.¹³
- Truncale volunteered for the presidential campaign of Donald Trump.¹⁴

Record on Other Key Issues

- An article about Truncale’s congressional campaign states that he supported “defining marriage as exclusively between one man and one woman.”¹⁵
- Truncale espoused Trump-like views on immigration during his congressional campaign, saying, “We have all sorts of bad influences coming in [through the US-Mexico border]. We have drugs. We have illegal gangs. There is the possibility of bombs.”¹⁶
- Truncale highlighted his NRA membership on his campaign website and ran as a defender of the second amendment.¹⁷
- Truncale supports the Keystone XL pipeline. In a tweet, he wrote, “Very Disappointed that Pres. #Obama lobbied Senators to vote against #Keystone XL #Pipeline. We need new President next #November.”¹⁸

April 17, 2018

Notes

¹ Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees: Michael Joseph Truncale, UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Truncale%20SJQ1.pdf> (last visited April 6, 2018)

² Archive of MichaelTruncale.com, <https://web.archive.org/web/20120420211256/http://www.michaeltruncale.com:80/> (last visited April 6, 2018)

³ Breck Porter, Interview with Michael Truncale, Republican for Congress, District 14 in Texas, YOUTUBE (Feb. 19, 2012), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kzb9XP3Xago>

⁴ Breck Porter, Interview with Michael Truncale, Republican for Congress, District 14 in Texas, YOUTUBE (Feb. 19, 2012), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kzb9XP3Xago>

⁵ Candidates answer questions about their races in the general election primary, THE ALVIN SUN & ADVERTISER (May 16, 2012), http://www.alvinsun.net/news/article_e3335bbf-eee4-5eed-8f5c-d94cfd55296f.html

⁶ Breck Porter, Interview with Michael Truncale, Republican for Congress, District 14 in Texas, YOUTUBE (Feb. 19, 2012), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kzb9XP3Xago>

⁷ Breck Porter, Interview with Michael Truncale, Republican for Congress, District 14 in Texas, YOUTUBE (Feb. 19, 2012), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kzb9XP3Xago>

⁸ Breck Porter, Interview with Michael Truncale, Republican for Congress, District 14 in Texas, YOUTUBE (Feb. 19, 2012), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kzb9XP3Xago>

⁹ Notes from Speeches: Final Reflections Upon Eight Years of Service on the State Republican Executive Committee before the Golden Triangle Republican Women (May 5, 2014) and Report on State Republican Executive Committee before the Golden Triangle Republican Women (April 7, 2014) (attachments to Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees: Michael Joseph Truncale, UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY)

¹⁰ Michael Truncale, The Reason to Vote for Trump, GOLDEN TRIANGLE REPUBLICAN WOMEN GAZETTE, (September 2016), <http://gtrw.us/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/GTRW-Sept-2016-email.pdf>

¹¹ Scott Lawrence, Reaction from local GOP, Democratic Party leaders to President's Supreme Court nominee, KFDM (Feb. 1, 2017), <http://kfdm.com/news/local/reaction-from-local-gop-democratic-party-leaders-to-presidents-supreme-court-nominee>

¹² Individual Contributions: Michael Truncale, FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, https://www.fec.gov/data/receipts/individual-contributions/?two_year_transaction_period=2006&contributor_name=michael+truncale&min_date=01%2F01%2F2005&max_date=12%2F31%2F2006 (last visited April 6, 2018)

¹³ Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees: Michael Joseph Truncale, UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Truncale%20SJQ1.pdf> (last visited April 6, 2018)

¹⁴ Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees: Michael Joseph Truncale, UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Truncale%20SJQ1.pdf> (last visited April 6, 2018)

¹⁵ Joe Holley, 14th congressional District; Conservatives seek Paul seat, THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE (March 18, 2012)

¹⁶ Paula Smith, Michael Truncale at CD14 Job Interview, YOUTUBE (May 23, 2012), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hr3rSPRTGJM>

¹⁷ Archive of MichaelTruncale.com, <https://web.archive.org/web/20120420211256/http://www.michaeltruncale.com:80/> (last visited April 6, 2018)

¹⁸ Michael Truncale (@TruncaleForTX), TWITTER (Mar. 9, 2012, 9:22 AM), <https://twitter.com/TruncaleForTX/status/178138777124999168>