



Kenneth Bell

President Trump nominated Kenneth Bell to serve on the Western District of North Carolina on April 10, 2018. Bell is anti-choice.

Career¹

- B.A., Wake Forest University, 1980
- J.D., Wake Forest University School of Law, 1983
- Assistant United States Attorney, United States Attorney's Office, Western District of North Carolina, 1983-1988
- Associate, Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, 1988-1990
- Assistant United States Attorney, United States Attorney's Office, Western District of North Carolina, 1990-1993
- First Assistant United States Attorney, United States Attorney's Office, Western District of North Carolina, 1993-2003
- Partner, Mayer Brown LLP, 2003-2006
- Partner, Hunton & Williams LLP, 2006-2009
- Partner, McGuireWoods LLP, 2009-present

Record on Choice-Related Issues

- In 1990, Bell ran for Congress in a bid to represent North Carolina's fifth congressional district.² The National Right to Life Action Committee spent thousands of dollars supporting Bell's unsuccessful campaign.³
 - During the campaign, Bell was criticized for using campaign funds for personal expenses like house and car payments.⁴
- Bell wrote an op-ed discussing the "indefensibility of the abortion rights position."⁵ In response to another op-ed in support of abortion rights, Bell wrote, "Either the unborn is a mass of cells worthy of no more consideration than a hangnail, or it is a child, which may not be killed. There is no middle ground. Only if the mother knows it is a child rather than a hangnail is abortion a 'hard decision.'"⁶ He also pushed back against the idea that the anti-choice movement wants to control women's bodies, saying, "No one cares what the mother does with her body; the point is to protect the body, the life, of the baby."⁷

- Bell supported the nomination of anti-choice U.S. District Judge Robert Conrad to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. Conrad, nominated by George W. Bush, was vigorously opposed by Democrats in part because of his extreme anti-choice views, including having written that “Planned Parenthood knowingly kills unborn babies, not fetuses, as a method of post-conception contraception.”⁸ Bell said it was “embarrassing and outrageous” that Conrad didn’t receive a hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee, and that “the people of North Carolina [were] being cheated.”⁹ In fact, Bell was so supportive of Conrad’s nomination that he travelled to Capitol Hill to speak at an event aimed at garnering media attention around the stalled nomination.¹⁰
- Bell has donated to various anti-choice politicians, including Sens. Marco Rubio and Richard Burr.¹¹

Record on Other Key Issues

- While Bell claims he “washed his hands of politics” after his Congressional run,¹² he certainly hasn’t done so entirely. He wrote a 2016 op-ed calling for the prosecution of Hillary Clinton for using an unclassified email server while Secretary of State.¹³ He also criticized then-Attorney-General Loretta Lynch for accepting the FBI’s recommendation of no charges, saying that “no ‘reasonable prosecutor’ would do that.”

July 26, 2018

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

² *Kenneth Bell*, MCGUIREWOODS, <https://www.mcguirewoods.com/People/B/Kenneth-D-Bell.aspx> (last visited June 13, 2018)

³ *Bell, Kenneth Davis*, FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, <https://www.fec.gov/data/candidate/HONC05128/?tab=other-spending> (last visited June 13, 2018)

⁴ Charles Babcock, *Personal Use of Campaign Funds Sparks Dispute*, WASHINGTON POST (August 3, 1990), https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/1990/08/03/personal-use-of-campaign-funds-sparks-dispute/df3d7377-2ca3-4798-b411-0a1e2069f5a2/?utm_term=.f59958e379b1

⁵ Kenneth D. Bell, *So why is abortion hard-enough decision?*, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER (July 31, 1995)

⁶ Kenneth D. Bell, *So why is abortion hard-enough decision?*, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER (July 31, 1995)

⁷ Kenneth D. Bell, *So why is abortion hard-enough decision?*, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER (July 31, 1995)

⁸ *Preliminary Report on the Nomination of Robert J. Conrad, Jr. to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals*, ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE, http://www.judgingtheenvironment.org/library/reports_analysis/afj-conrad-report.pdf (last visited June 13, 2018)

⁹ Guy Loranger, *Court’s open seats raise concern in N.C.*, NORTH CAROLINA LAWYERS WEEKLY (Aug. 4, 2008)

¹⁰ Lisa Zagaroli, *Conrad at Center of Partisan Battle; Bush Nominee has Waited a Year for his Confirmation Hearing, and the GOP isirate*, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER (July 22, 2008)

¹¹ *Donor Lookup: Kenneth Bell*, OPEN SECRETS, <https://www.opensecrets.org/donor-lookup/results?name=kenneth+bell&cycle=&state=NC&zip=&employ=&cand=> (last visited June 13, 2018)

¹² *Bounty hunter*, BUSINESS NORTH CAROLINA (June 15, 2015), <http://businessnc.com/bounty-hunter/>

¹³ Ken Bell, *A 'reasonable' case for charging Hillary Clinton*, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER (July 9, 2016), <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/opinion/op-ed/article88564422.html>