



Matthew McFarland

President Trump nominated Matthew McFarland to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio on October 10, 2018. McFarland is anti-choice.

Career¹

- Bachelor of Arts, Capital University, 1989
- Juris Doctorate, Capital University Law School, 1992
- Law Clerk and Associate Attorney, Mazanec, Raskin and Ryder, 1991-1992
- Assistant City Solicitor, Portsmouth City Solicitor, 1992-1993
- Associate Attorney, Faulkner Law Office, 1992-1994
- Adjunct Professor, Capital University, 1992-2000
- Assistant County Prosecutor, Licking County Prosecutor's Office, 1994-1995
- Assistant County Prosecutor, Scioto County Prosecutor's Office, 1995-1999
- Solo Practitioner, Matthew McFarland Esq., 1995-1999
- Special Counsel, Office of the Attorney General of Ohio, 1995-1999
- Magistrate, Scioto County Common Pleas Court, Probate-Juvenile Division, 1999-2004
- Adjunct Professor, Shawnee State University, 2000-present
- Appellate Judge, Ohio Fourth District Court of Appeals, 2004-present

Record on Choice-Related Issues

Notable Information

- In his initial Senate Judiciary Committee questionnaire, McFarland disclosed that he was a member of the Scioto County Right to Life organization in 1997.² However, an article from 2004 states that McFarland noted in his 2004 campaign literature that “he’s an avid Second Amendment supporter and a member of his county’s Right to Life group.”³ McFarland later amended his questionnaire to disclose that he was a Right to Life member from approximately 1997 to 2004.⁴
 - The Scioto County Right to Life group lists their mission as “to promote and defend the right to life of all innocent human beings, from the time of fertilization until natural death.”⁵
- In his personal capacity, McFarland volunteered for the campaign of Betty Montgomery to be attorney general of Ohio.⁶ Montgomery, a Republican, “helped write and successfully defend” Ohio’s so-called “partial-birth abortion ban.”⁷

- McFarland has donated to anti-choice politicians including Mike DeWine.⁸
- McFarland is a member of the conservative, anti-choice Federalist Society.⁹ 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,”¹⁰ and serves as co-chairman of Students for Life,¹¹ a group whose mission is to “abolish abortion.”¹²

Record on Other Key Issues

- McFarland has been a member of the National Rifle Association as recently as 2018, while acting as a sitting judge.¹³
- McFarland served on the Scioto County Republican Central Committee for several years.¹⁴

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

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

³ Athens News Staff, *Long-time Athens judge, Scioto County magistrate seek appeals court seat*, THE ATHENS NEWS (Oct. 18, 2004), https://www.athensnews.com/news/local/long-time-athens-judge-scioto-county-magistrate-seek-appeals-court/article_9afc9caf-8774-51ec-9889-7ab5fbace1d8.html

⁴ <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/McFarland%20SJQ%20Supplement%20-%20PUBLIC1.pdf>

⁵ *Our Mission*, SCIOTO COUNTY RIGHT TO LIFE, <http://www.sciotolife.org/about-us.html> (last visited Jan. 29, 2018)

⁶ *Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees: Matthew Walden McFarland*, UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/McFarland%20SJQ.pdf>

⁷ Betty Montgomery, *WHIO TV7* (Jan. 16, 2006), <https://www.whio.com/news/local-govt--politics/betty-montgomery/B8Bmg3VITERsh2j08KymDP/>

⁸ *Donor Lookup: Matthew McFarland*, OPEN SECRETS, <https://www.opensecrets.org/donor-lookup/results?name=matthew+mcfarland&cycle=&state=OH&zip=&employ=&cand=> (last visited January 29, 2018)

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

¹⁰ 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>

¹¹ *Board of Directors*, STUDENTS FOR LIFE, <http://studentsforlife.org/supporters/board-of-directors-1> (last visited July 5, 2018)

¹² *Mission Statement*, STUDENTS FOR LIFE, <http://studentsforlife.org/about/mission-statement/> (last visited July 5, 2018)

¹³ *Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees: Matthew Walden McFarland*, UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/McFarland%20SJQ.pdf>

¹⁴ *Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees: Matthew Walden McFarland*, UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/McFarland%20SJQ.pdf>