



Brian Lea

President Trump nominated Brian Charles Lea to serve on the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee on November 14, 2025.

Career¹

- Bachelor of Arts, Union University, 2006
- Juris Doctor, University of Georgia School of Law, 2009
- Law Clerk, Judge Edward Carnes, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, 2009-2010
- Associate, DLA Piper LLP, 2010-2011
- Law Clerk, Justice Clarence Thomas, 2011-2012
- Jones Day
 - Associate, 2012-2014, 2017-2019
 - Partner, 2020-2025
- Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Georgia School of Law, 2015-2017
 - Co-taught a seminar course on stare decisis with Clarence Thomas
- Deputy Associate Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, 2025-Present

Record on Reproductive Freedom

Undermined Access to Contraception

As an associate for Jones Day, Brian Lea represented a for-profit business in challenging the Affordable Care Act's contraceptive-coverage benefit, arguing that employers should be allowed to force their individual religious beliefs upon their employees by denying them insurance coverage for contraception.²

Supported Anti-abortion Judicial Nominee

Lea signed onto a letter supporting the nomination of Joshua Divine who was later confirmed to be a District Court Judge for Missouri.³ Divine has an established record of hostility towards reproductive freedom. Most notably, Divine has been instrumental in ongoing litigation challenging the Food and Drug Administration's authority to regulate mifepristone, one of two pills typically used in medication abortion.⁴

¹ Brian Charles Lea, Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees, United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary (Nov. 14, 2025).

² *Eternal World Television Network, Inc. v. Sec'y, U.S. Dep't of Health & Human Services*, 818 F.3d 1122 (11th Cir. 2016).

³ Letter to Hon. Chuck Grassley, Chairman, and Hon. Richard Durbin, Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary, United States Senate, from Former Law Clerks to Justice Clarence Thomas Concerning Confirmation of Joshua Divine (May 29, 2025).

⁴ Motion of Mo., Idaho, and Kan. to Intervene, *U.S. Food and Drug Admin., et al., Petitioners, v. Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine, et al.*, No. 23-235, 23-236 (2024), https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/23/23-235/298312/20240122150358882_A.%202024-01-

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22%20-%20Alliance%20v.%20FDA%20-%20Motion%20to%20Intervene.pdf; Reply in Support of Motion to Intervene, No. 23-235, 23-236 (2024), https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/23/23-235/299912/20240206153029384_2024-02-6%20-%20Alliance%20v.%20FDA%20-%20Reply%20in%20Support%20of%20Motion%20to%20Intervene.pdf.