



Kasdin Mitchell

President Trump nominated Kasdin Mitchell to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas on May 11, 2026.

Career¹

- Bachelor of Arts, Yale University, 2007
- Juris Doctor, Yale Law School, 2012
- Assistant Solicitor General, Office of the Attorney General of Alabama, 2012-2013
- Law Clerk to the Hon. William H. Pryor, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, 2013-2014
- Associate, Maynard Cooper & Gale, P.C., 2014-2016
- Law clerk to the Hon. Clarence Thomas, U.S. Supreme Court, 2016-2017
- Kirkland & Ellis LLP, 2017-Present
 - Associate, 2017-2018
 - Partner, 2018-Present

Record on Reproductive Freedom

Defended Efforts to Defund Planned Parenthood

- In private practice, Mitchell helped lead Alabama's defense of its effort to strip Planned Parenthood of Medicaid funding.² The case arose in the summer of 2015, after the Center for Medical Progress, an extreme anti-abortion organization, released heavily edited undercover videos and made a series of false allegations about Planned Parenthood's practices relating to the donation of fetal tissue for medical research at certain affiliate offices.³ Multiple state and federal investigations found no evidence of wrongdoing, but the videos triggered a coordinated, multi-state campaign by conservative officials to defund the organization.⁴
 - In August 2015, Alabama Governor Robert Bentley announced that his administration was unilaterally terminating the state's Medicaid contract with Planned Parenthood Southeast—part of a wave of similar moves by anti-abortion governors seeking to cut off millions in healthcare funding. Planned Parenthood Southeast sued Bentley and state health officials, arguing that the termination violated the Medicaid Act's "free choice of provider" provision, which guarantees beneficiaries the right to obtain care from any qualified provider.⁵
 - Mitchell and the state's legal team filed a brief opposing Planned Parenthood's motion for a preliminary injunction.⁶ Their brief made the extreme argument that states administering the cooperative Medicaid program held inherent sovereign authority to determine which providers qualified based on their own unchecked assessment of an organization's ethics.⁷

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- In November 2015, the district court permanently blocked Alabama from terminating Planned Parenthood's Medicaid provider agreements based on allegations arising from the misleading videos—a decisive defeat against Alabama's attempt to defund reproductive health care providers in the state.⁸

Support for Anti-Abortion Judicial Nominees

- Mitchell signed letters to the Senate Judiciary Committee supporting the confirmation of several of President Trump's most extreme judicial nominees, including Whitney Hermandorfer, Joshua Divine, Edmund LaCour, David Bragdon, and Brian Lea.⁹

Affiliations with Anti-Reproductive Freedom Organizations

- Mitchell served as counsel of record for the Independent Women's Law Center (IWF) in *Americans for Prosperity Foundation v. Bonta*, authoring an amicus brief that argued California's donor-disclosure requirements for tax-exempt charities violated the First Amendment—a position the Supreme Court ultimately adopted in striking down the disclosure regime.
 - IWF is an anti-abortion organization that claims to offer an alternative to mainstream feminism.¹⁰ IWF has supported restrictions at both state and federal levels and opposed the Affordable Care Act's contraception coverage benefit. It also opposes other policies that are essential for women's equality, including the Violence Against Women Act, paid family leave mandates, and equal pay legislation. IWF is a member of the advisory board of Project 2025 and is partially funded by the Heritage Foundation.¹¹
- Mitchell has been a member of the Federalist Society since 2010.¹²
 - The Federalist Society is a well-funded, conservative legal network that exerts influence through law schools, professional networks, and conferences, and over the judiciary at large. It serves as a talent and influence pipeline for the conservative movement to cultivate young lawyers and then pack the courts with judges who will execute their unpopular agenda, which includes undermining reproductive freedom.
- Mitchell has been a member of the Teneo Network since 2013.¹³
 - The Teneo Network is a professional network that aims to cultivate and connect rising conservative ideologues across law, business, media, and government to advance a shared extreme agenda. Founded as an outgrowth of the Federalist Society's model, it operates as a selective, invitation-only pipeline—aiming to exert a coordinated conservative influence across the institutions they enter to undermine our fundamental rights, including reproductive freedom.

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¹ Kasdin Mitchell, Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees, United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary (May 14, 2026).

² *Planned Parenthood Se., Inc. v. Bentley*, 141 F. Supp. 3d 1207 (M.D. Ala. 2015).

³ *Id.* at 1212.

⁴ *Id.* at 1212.

⁵ *Id.* at 1212, *see also* 42 U.S.C. § 1396a(a)(23).

⁶ Brief for Defendant, *Planned Parenthood Se., Inc. v. Bentley*, No. 2:15-cv-00620-MHT-TFM (M.D. Ala. 2015).

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Planned Parenthood Se., Inc. v. Bentley*, 141 F. Supp. 3d at 1229.

⁹ Kasdin Mitchell, Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees, P. 7-8, United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary (May 14, 2026).

¹⁰ *About*, Independent Women's Forum, <https://www.independentwomen.com/about/>.

¹¹ Katherine Doyle, *Donations Have Surged to Groups Linked to Conservative Project 2025*, NBC (Nov. 17, 2023), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2024-election/donations-surged-groups-linked-conservative-project-2025-rcna125638>.

¹² Kasdin Mitchell, Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees, P. 6, United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary (May 14, 2026).

¹³ *Id.*