



## Matthew Byrne

President Trump nominated Matthew Byrne to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio on May 27, 2026.

### Career<sup>1</sup>

- Bachelor of Arts, Xavier University, 2003
- Juris Doctor, The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, 2007
- Staff Assistant, The White House, Executive Office of the President, Office of Presidential Personnel, 2004
- Associate, Taft Stettinius & Hollister, LLP, 2007-2010
- Jackson Lewis P.C., 2010-2020
  - Associate, 2010-2016
  - Of Counsel, 2016-2020
- Ohio Twelfth District Court of Appeals, 2021-present
  - Judge, 2021-present
  - Administrative Judge, 2024-2025
  - Presiding Judge, 2026-present

### Record on Reproductive Freedom

#### ***Objected to State Constitutional Abortion Protections***

- Byrne contested the Ohio Supreme Court majority's decision to dismiss a case defending Ohio's six-week abortion ban.<sup>2</sup> In 2023, the court dropped the abortion ban case after a majority of Ohio voters passed a constitutional amendment protecting the right to abortion.<sup>3</sup> Byrne was the only judge on the seven-judge panel who objected to the dismissal and advocated for the court to proceed with considering the state's ban.

#### ***Opposition to Reproductive Freedom***

- Byrne's anti-reproductive freedom views extend back to his college years. During his time as a student at Xavier University, Byrne publicized his anti-reproductive freedom views in a local newspaper. Byrne wrote inflammatory and erroneous comments about Reproductive Freedom for All, previously NARAL-Pro Choice America, falsely alleging that our organization's support of abortion rights and access is akin to advocating for murder.<sup>4</sup>

#### ***Affiliations with Anti-Reproductive Freedom Organizations***

- As a 2020 judicial candidate for the Ohio Twelfth District Court of Appeals, Byrne completed the Ohio Right to Life PAC Confidential Personal Opinion Survey where he affirmed his anti-abortion beliefs.<sup>5</sup> As part of this confidential survey, Byrne lists his contributions to numerous anti-abortion organizations between 2016 to 2020.<sup>6</sup>

# REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM<sup>FOR</sup>ALL

- Byrne is a member of Cincinnati Right to Life, where he served as an informal advisor from 2014 to 2018.<sup>7</sup>
  - Cincinnati Right to Life is an affiliate of The National Right to Life Committee (NRLC) through their membership to Ohio Right to Life. NRLC is an influential anti-abortion group that has propagated disinformation regarding abortion care and promotes legislation that would criminalize abortion care providers. NRLC has launched numerous attacks on medication abortion, with the goal of making it unnecessarily burdensome for people to receive safe and effective healthcare.<sup>8</sup>
- Byrne served as an informal advisor to the Center for Christian Virtue from 2014 to 2018.<sup>9</sup>
  - Center for Christian Virtue, formerly Citizens for Community Values, is an anti-abortion organization funded by the Heritage Foundation that has endorsed anti-abortion legislation in Ohio.<sup>10</sup> In 2025, Center for Christian Virtue was designated an Anti-LGBTQ+ Hate Group by the Southern Poverty Law Center.<sup>11</sup>
- Byrne also served as an informal advisor to Warren County Right to Life from 2014 to 2018.<sup>12</sup>
  - Warren County Right to Life is a local anti-abortion organization that partners with other anti-abortion organizations, such as Cincinnati Right to Life, to promote anti-abortion conversations through community engagement.
- Byrne served as a Committee and Advisory Board Member of Pregnancy Center Plus from 2015 to 2019.<sup>13</sup>
  - Pregnancy Center Plus is an anti-abortion center in Ohio. Anti-abortion centers are known for using deceptive tactics to draw individuals to the centers and for providing medically inaccurate information regarding pregnancy and reproductive health.
- Byrne has been a member of the Federalist Society since 2004.<sup>14</sup>
  - The Federalist Society is a well-funded, conservative legal network that exerts influence through law schools, professional networks, conferences, and over the judiciary at large. It serves as a talent and influence pipeline for the conservative movement to help cultivate young lawyers and pack the courts with judges who will execute their unpopular agenda.

## Record on Intersectional Commitments

**LGBTQIA+ Equality:** As a judge on the Ohio Twelfth District Court of Appeals, Byrne demonstrated his anti-LGBTQIA+ views, when he intentionally misgendered a transgender child in a custody proceeding, invalidating their gender identity and promoting anti-transgender ideology.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Matthew Byrne, Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees, United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary (May 28, 2026).

<sup>2</sup> *Preterm-Cleveland v. Yost*, 178 Ohio St.3d 1 (Ohio 2023).

<sup>3</sup> *Preterm-Cleveland, et al., v. Yost*, No. A2203203 (Hamilton County, Ohio Oct. 24, 2024).

<sup>4</sup> Matthew Byrne, Attachment Package for Question 12(a) of the Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees, p. 632, United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary (May 28, 2026).

<sup>5</sup> Matthew Byrne, Attachment Package for Question 12(c) of the Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees, p. 786-788, United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary (May 28, 2026).

<sup>6</sup> Matthew Byrne, Attachment Package for Question 12(c) of the Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees, p. 794, United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary (May 28, 2026).

<sup>7</sup> Matthew Byrne, Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees, P. 6, United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary (May 28, 2026).

<sup>8</sup> *National Right to Life Committee (NRLC): The Group Behind Extremist Anti-Abortion Legislation*, Reproductive Freedom for All, (Jun. 3, 2026), <https://reproductivefreedomforall.org/resources/national-right-to-life-committee-nrlc-the-group-behind-extremist-anti-abortion-laws/>.

<sup>9</sup> Matthew Byrne, Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees, P. 6, United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary (May 28, 2026).

<sup>10</sup> Victoria Moorwood and Jessie Balmert, *'They're relentless.' How a Christian group turns beliefs into bills*, The Cincinnati Enquirer, (Dec. 15, 2025), <https://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/politics/2025/12/14/how-center-for-christian-virtue-lobbies-ohio-statehouse/86181115007/>.

<sup>11</sup> *Anti-LGBTQ*, Southern Poverty Law Center, <https://www.splcenter.org/resources/extremist-files/anti-lgbtq/#2025-anti-lgbtq-hate-groups>.

<sup>12</sup> Matthew Byrne, Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees, P. 8, United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary (May 28, 2026).

<sup>13</sup> *Id.* at 7.

<sup>14</sup> *Id.*

<sup>15</sup> *In re S.B.*, 2026 WL 788895, at \*16 n.7 (Ohio App. 12 Dist., 2026).