



Jesus Osete

President Trump nominated Jesus Osete to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri on August 19, 2026.

Career¹

- Bachelor of Arts, University of Arizona, 2013
- Juris Doctor, Washington University School of Law, 2016
- Law Clerk to the Hon. Zel M. Fischer, Supreme Court of Missouri, 2016-2018
- Law Clerk to the Hon. Bobby E. Shepard, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, 2018-2019
- Associate, Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP, 2019-2020, 2023-2025
- Missouri Attorney General's Office, 2020-2022
 - Deputy Solicitor General, 2020-2021
 - Deputy Attorney General for Special Litigation, 2021-2022
- General Counsel, Missouri Secretary of State's Office, 2022-2023
- United States Department of Justice, 2025-present
 - Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, 2025
 - Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, 2025-present

Record on Reproductive Freedom

Threatens Access to Medication Abortion

- During a Federalist Society event titled "Post-Dobbs Abortion Legislation in Missouri," Osete criticized the Biden administration's Department of Justice (DOJ) for taking steps to protect access to medication abortion. He specifically highlighted a 2022 DOJ memo which affirmed that the Comstock Act—a 150-year-old law that restricts the mailing of materials deemed "obscene"—does not prohibit or criminalize mailing mifepristone. By criticizing this action, Osete parroted anti-abortion extremists' demands for the DOJ to weaponize and misuse the Comstock Act to block access to medication abortion and medical equipment used for abortion care nationwide.²
- Later in the panel, Osete criticized the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) decision during the Biden administration to lift medically unnecessary restrictions on mifepristone. The FDA's decision to remove these restrictions followed an evidence-based determination where scientific data affirmed that mifepristone was safe and effective without the restrictions in place.³
- During the same event, Osete expressed concern that reproductive freedom advocates could succeed in establishing a new legal basis for the right to abortion from state

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constitutions following the Supreme Court's 2022 *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* (*Dobbs*) decision.⁴

Defended Abortion Restrictions

- Osete defended various abortion restrictions during his time at the Missouri Attorney General's Office—an office which has repeatedly led attacks on access to abortion care nationwide:⁵
 - As Deputy Solicitor General, Osete defended Missouri's 8-week abortion ban and a ban based on the reason why a person is seeking abortion care,⁶ and represented the state in this case before the Supreme Court.⁷ Osete expressly asked the Supreme Court to overrule *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*—a year before the Supreme Court's *Dobbs* decision that overturned the federal right to abortion.⁸ The Supreme Court ultimately denied his request for review.⁹
 - Also as Deputy Solicitor General, Osete defended Missouri's biased counseling law, which forces pregnant people to receive medically inaccurate and anti-abortion counseling prior to receiving abortion care.¹⁰ On petition for review before the Supreme Court, the individual who challenged the law requested that Justice Amy Coney Barrett recuse herself from the case because of her public opposition to reproductive freedom and Osete filed a motion opposing that request.¹¹ The Supreme Court ultimately denied the request for review, permitting Missouri's biased abortion counseling regime to continue.¹²

Defended Blocking Access to Abortion Care

- While at the Missouri Attorney General's office, Osete represented a county clerk who misled and gave false information to a 17-year-old about her ability to seek a judicial bypass from Missouri's law prohibiting people under 18 from accessing abortion care without parental involvement.¹³ The teen was forced to travel to Illinois to access care and sued the clerk for violating her Fourteenth Amendment rights.¹⁴ Osete argued that the clerk should not be held liable because of qualified immunity for public officials and the Eighth Circuit rejected his argument.¹⁵

Public Commentary Against Reproductive Freedom

- On a personal social media account, Osete praised Missouri Governor Mike Kehoe and Missouri Attorney General Catherine Hanaway for supporting several state restrictions on abortion.¹⁶ Osete specifically thanked the Governor and Attorney General for criticizing the county circuit court decision that restored access to medication abortion in Missouri for the first time since 2018.¹⁷

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- During his failed 2024 campaign for a Missouri county circuit court seat, Osete discussed efforts to remove Amendment 3, which would have restored abortion rights in Missouri, from the ballot.¹⁸ Osete suggested that Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, his former boss, could keep the Amendment off the ballot entirely by decertifying it.¹⁹
- During a Federalist Society event titled "Post-Dobbs Abortion Legislation in Missouri," Osete criticized the Biden administration's Department of Veterans Affairs for permitting the agency to provide veterans with abortion care in certain circumstances and abortion counseling following the *Dobbs* decision.²⁰ The Trump administration rescinded this rule in 2025.²¹

Support for Anti-Abortion Judicial and Executive Nominees

- Osete signed letters to the Senate Judiciary Committee supporting the nomination of several of President Trump's anti-reproductive freedom nominees, including Brian Lea, Joshua Divine, and Maria Lanahan to the federal bench,²² and of D. John Sauer's nomination to serve as U.S. Solicitor General.²³

Affiliations with Anti-Reproductive Freedom Organizations

- Osete has been a member of the **Federalist Society** since 2013.²⁴ Osete has held various leadership positions for the Jefferson City Lawyers Chapter since 2021. He was the secretary from 2021 to 2024 and vice president from 2024 to 2025.²⁵
 - 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, which includes undermining reproductive freedom.
 - While in private practice, Osete was a featured panelist for a Federalist Society event at the 2023 Missouri Chapters Conference titled "Post-*Dobbs* Abortion Legislation in Missouri."²⁶ The panel specifically addressed Missouri laws that "restrict or prohibit abortion" and anticipated legal challenges to those laws.²⁷

Record on Intersectional Commitments

Democracy and Voting Rights: Osete has been involved in several voting rights cases during his time as General Counsel to Missouri's Secretary of State and, since 2025, in the Department of Justice's (DOJ) Civil Rights division, the office responsible for enforcing the Voting Rights Act (VRA):

- Osete worked on a DOJ amicus brief supporting individuals who challenged the creation of Louisiana's second majority-Black congressional district. Louisiana created

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the district as a result of a successful legal challenge brought under Section 2 of the VRA, which historically allowed voters to challenge maps that weakened the voting power of communities of color.²⁸ The DOJ's argument was not an isolated legal position but part of a deliberate agenda to dismantle voting rights: it attacked a majority-Black district as unconstitutional and pressed the Supreme Court to make the VRA nearly impossible to enforce, stripping Black voters of one of the last tools they have to secure fair representation.²⁹ The MAGA majority on the Court ultimately ruled 6-3 that Louisiana's second majority-Black district was unconstitutional and, in the process, gutted Section 2 of the VRA by requiring voters to prove intentional discrimination—clearing the way for Louisiana and states across the country to dismantle districts that give Black and other historically marginalized communities a fair shot at representation.³⁰

- As General Counsel to Missouri's Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, Osete was counsel of record on an amicus brief supporting North Carolina Republican legislators who, after the state supreme court struck down their congressional map as an extreme partisan gerrymander,³¹ asked the Supreme Court to adopt a fringe "independent state legislature theory," which would have given state legislatures nearly unchecked power over federal elections, free from review by state courts under their own state constitutions. The legislators' argument, if accepted by the court, would have made it nearly impossible for voters to challenge partisan gerrymandering in federal elections. In 2023, the Supreme Court rejected the legislators' position and held that state courts can review the congressional maps.³²
- As a DOJ attorney, Osete supported the Republican National Committee's (RNC) challenge to Mississippi's rule that ensured mail ballots that were postmarked by Election Day and received up to five business days later would be counted.³³ Osete and the RNC argued that the ballots that were mailed before Election Day, but arrived after Election Day, should go uncounted. The district court rejected Osete's argument, and the case was appealed to the Fifth Circuit, which agreed with Osete's position.³⁴ The Supreme Court ultimately reversed the circuit court's decision and affirmed the district court's ruling, rejecting Osete's argument and maintaining the validity of ballots mailed before Election Day but arrived after Election Day.³⁵
- Also during his time at the DOJ, Osete urged the Supreme Court to take up the RNC's petition in a challenge to Arizona's restrictive voting laws.³⁶ The DOJ defended Arizona's requirement that people registering to vote with the state form (as opposed to the federal form, which the state cannot add requirements to) provide documentary proof of citizenship. It also challenged lower-court limits on Arizona's program for removing people identified as noncitizens from voter rolls.³⁷ Burdensome voter suppression requirements like these can block eligible citizens from exercising their right to vote.³⁸

- Osete is also listed as DOJ counsel on its motion to intervene in a challenge to California's Proposition 50 congressional map.³⁹ Proposition 50 allowed California to temporarily redraw its congressional map in order to neutralize Texas Republicans' efforts to gerrymander their own congressional maps. Osete's brief falsely alleged the California map was a racial gerrymander that violated the U.S. Constitution and the VRA. California voters approved Proposition 50 in November 2025.⁴⁰ The Supreme Court preliminarily held that the congressional map was valid and the case is ongoing.⁴¹
- As a DOJ attorney, Osete has worked on several lawsuits where the Trump administration sought to compel states to turn over their complete, unredacted voter-registration lists, which contained sensitive personal information such as voters' dates of birth, driver's license numbers, and partial Social Security numbers, which federal courts have repeatedly rejected.⁴²

LGBTQIA+ Equality: Osete is a staunch opponent of LGBTQIA+ equality in both his personal and professional capacity:

- As a DOJ attorney, Osete helped lead a number of cases seeking to undermine LGBTQIA+ equality by attacking transgender rights, including the right to equally participate in sports teams.
 - Osete submitted an amicus brief in a Supreme Court case that aimed to eliminate the rights of transgender girls and women to play in sports.⁴³ The Court ultimately upheld West Virginia's and Idaho's anti-transgender sports bans, permitting the states to continue discriminating against transgender athletes and greenlighting efforts for other states to adopt similar bans.⁴⁴
 - Osete also challenged California policies that would allow transgender students to compete on sports teams consistent with their gender identity.⁴⁵ The case is ongoing.
- On a personal social media account, Osete showed his support for conversion therapy, a dangerous, discredited practice aimed at changing a person's sexual orientation or gender identity.⁴⁶

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¹ Jesus Osete, Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees, United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary (Sept. 3, 2026).

² The Federalist Society, *Panel 3: Post-Dobbs Abortion Legislation in Missouri*, at 7:54 [2023 Missouri Chapters Conference] (YouTube, Feb. 10, 2023), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VzHSBerKkZM>.

³ *Id.* at 8:15.

⁴ *Id.* at 9:45.

⁵ See *Missouri: The Anti-Abortion Extremist Testing Ground*, Reproductive Freedom for All (Jan. 27, 2026), <https://reproductivfreedomforall.org/resources/missouri-the-anti-abortion-extremist-testing-ground/>.

⁶ *Reprod. Health Servs. of Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region, Inc. v. Parson*, 1 F.4th 552 (8th Cir. 2021).

⁷ Petition for Writ of Certiorari, *Schmitt v. Reprod. Health Servs. of Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region, Inc.*, 144 S. Ct. 38, 211 L. Ed. 2d 155 (2021).

⁸ *Id.* at 32.

⁹ *Schmitt v. Reprod. Health Servs. of Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region, Inc.*, 144 S. Ct. 38, 211 L. Ed. 2d 155 (2021).

¹⁰ *Doe v. Parson*, 960 F.3d 1115 (8th Cir. 2020).

¹¹ Response to the Motion for the Disqualification of the Hon. Amy Coney Barrett, Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the United States, *Doe v. Parson*, 592 U.S. 1115, 141 S. Ct. 874, 208 L. Ed. 2d 439 (2020); *Amy Coney Barrett Record on Reproductive Freedom*, Reproductive Freedom For All (Oct. 12, 2020), https://reproductivfreedomforall.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Amy-Coney-Barrett_NARAL-SCOTUS.101320.pdf.

¹² *Doe v. Parson*, 592 U.S. 1115, 141 S. Ct. 874, 208 L. Ed. 2d 439 (2020).

¹³ *Doe v. Chapman*, 30 F.4th 766 (8th Cir. 2022).

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ *Id.* at 775.

¹⁶ Jesus Osete (@jesus_osete), X (Jun. 19, 2026 at 9:32 AM EST), https://x.com/jesus_osete/status/2067963630625173506.

¹⁷ See Press Release, American Civil Liberties Union, *Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment Delivers: Medication Abortion Restored and Procedural Abortion Access Affirmed in Missouri Following Court Ruling* (Jun. 18, 2026), <https://www.aclu.org/press-releases/right-to-reproductive-freedom-amendment-delivers-medication-abortion-restored-and-procedural-abortion-access-affirmed-in-missouri-following-court-ruling>.

¹⁸ Brian Hauswirth, (AUDIO): *Abortion ballot measure before Missouri Supreme Court this morning*, 93.9 The Eagle (Sept. 10, 2024), <https://939theeagle.com/audio-abortion-ballot-measure-before-missouri-supreme-court-this-morning/>.

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ The Federalist Society, *Panel 3: Post-Dobbs Abortion Legislation in Missouri*, at 8:15 [2023 Missouri Chapters Conference] (YouTube, Feb. 10, 2023), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VzHSBerKkZM>; See *Fact Sheet: Abortion Access for Veterans*, Center for Reproductive Rights (Jan. 14, 2026), <https://reproductiverights.org/resources/fact-sheet-abortion-access-for-veterans/>.

²¹ See *Trump Administration Sacrifices Veterans' Health to Ban Abortion at the VA*, Reproductive Freedom for All (Dec. 23, 2025), <https://reproductivfreedomforall.org/news/trump-administration-sacrifices-veterans-health-to-ban-abortion-at-the-va/>.

²² Jesus Osete, Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees, p. 9-10, United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary (Sept. 3, 2026).

²³ Jesus Osete, Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees, p. 10, United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary (Sept. 3, 2026).

²⁴ Jesus Osete, Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees, p. 6, United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary (Sept. 3, 2026).

²⁵ *Id.*

²⁶ Jesus Osete, Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees, p. 14, United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary (Sept. 3, 2026).

²⁷ The Federalist Society, *Panel 3: Post-Dobbs Abortion Legislation in Missouri [2023 Missouri Chapters Conference]* (YouTube, Feb. 10, 2023), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VzHSBerKkZM>.

²⁸ Supplemental Brief for the United States as Amicus Curiae Supporting Appellees, *Louisiana v. Callais*, 608 U.S. 85 (2026).

²⁹ *Id.*

³⁰ *Callais v. Louisiana*, 146 S. Ct. 1111, 224 L. Ed. 2d 700 (2026).

³¹ Brief of the Honorable John R. Ashcroft, Secretary of State of Missouri, as Amicus Curiae in Support of Neither Party, *Moore v. Harper*, 600 U.S. 1 (2023).

³² *Id.*

³³ *Watson v. Republican Nat'l Comm.*, 146 S. Ct. 2165 (2026);

<https://www.justice.gov/osg/media/1429686/dl?inline=>.

³⁴ *Republican Nat'l Comm. v. Wetzel*, 120 F.4th 200 (5th Cir. 2024).

³⁵ *Watson v. Republican Nat'l Comm.*, 146 S. Ct. 2165 (2026).

³⁶ *Mi Familia Vota v. Fontes*, 129 F.4th 691 (9th Cir. 2025), cert. granted sub nom. *Republican Nat'l Comm. v. Mi Familia Vota*, No. 25-1017 (U.S. June 29, 2026); https://www.justice.gov/d9/2026-07/mi_familia_osg_final.pdf.

³⁷ *Id.*

³⁸ See Kevin T. Morris and Cora Henry, *Millions of Americans Don't Have Documents Proving Their Citizenship Readily Available*, Brennan Center for Justice (Jun. 11, 2024), <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/millions-americans-dont-have-documents-proving-their-citizenship-readily>.

³⁹ *Tangipa v. Newsom*, 816 F. Supp. 3d 1081 (C.D. Cal. 2026); <https://www.democracydocket.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/2025-11-13-Memorandum-of-points-and-authorities-in-support-of-United-States-motion-to-intervene.pdf>.

⁴⁰ *Id.*

⁴¹ California Congressional Redistricting Challenge (Tangipa), Democracy Docket (last visited Sept. 28, 2026), <https://www.democracydocket.com/cases/california-congressional-redistricting-challenge-tangipa/>.

⁴² Brief for the United States as Appellant, *United States v. Benson*, No. 26-1225, 2026 WL 1815425 (6th Cir. June 24, 2026); Reply Brief for the United States as Appellant, *United States v. Weber*, 816 F. Supp. 3d 1168 (C.D. Cal. 2026); Notice of Appeal, *United States v. Fontes*, No. 2:26-cv-00066 (D. Ariz. filed Jan. 6, 2026); *United States v. Raffensperger*, No. 1:26-cv-00485 (N.D. Ga. filed Jan. 23, 2026).

⁴³ Brief for the United States as Amicus Curiae supporting Petitioners, *W. Virginia v. B. P. J. by Jackson*, 146 S. Ct. 2356, 225 L. Ed. 2d 1040 (2026).

⁴⁴ Aneesha Pappy, *Supreme Court Allows States to Exclude Transgender Athletes From School Sports at the Expense of All Women and Girls, Leaving the Future of Anti-Discrimination Protections At Risk*, Human Rights Campaign (Jun. 30, 2026), <https://www.hrc.org/press-releases/supreme-court-allows-states-to-exclude-transgender-athletes-from-school-sports-at-the-expense-of-all-women-and-girls-leaving-the-future-of-anti-discrimination-protections-at-risk>.

⁴⁵ *United States v. California Interscholastic Federation*, No. 8:25-cv-01485 (C.D. Cal. 2025).

⁴⁶ Jesus Osete (@jesus_osete), X (Jul. 2, 2026 at 9:54 PM EST), https://x.com/jesus_osete/status/2072861505641394614.