

President Trump Nominated Mississippi Supreme Court Justice Robert Chamberlin To The Northern District Of Mississippi

SUMMARY:

In August 2025, Trump [nominated](#) Mississippi Supreme Court justice Robert “Bobby” Chamberlin to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi. Chamberlin has served on the Mississippi Supreme Court since 2016 and previously served on the 17th Circuit District and as a state senator.

In 2004, he [sponsored](#) a resolution to amend the state constitution to define marriage as being only between a man and a woman, and to not recognize out-of-state same-sex marriages. He also sponsored [another resolution](#) to do the same at the federal level.

On the bench, Chamberlin has voted to deny a transgender teenager’s [name change petition](#), despite his parents' consent. The opinion referred to the transgender boy as a female and wrote that a name change was not in the teen’s best interest. The ruling ran contrary to the GOP’s so-called “parental rights” outrage by directly ignoring parental consent. He also upheld a harsh 12-year prison sentence for a Black man who carried his cellphone into a county jail.

If confirmed, he would bring his anti-LGBTQ+ record to the federal court amidst a conservative rollback of civil rights protections.

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August 2025: Trump Nominated Mississippi Supreme Court Justice Robert Chamberlin To The U.S. District Court For The Northern District Of Mississippi. Two sitting Mississippi Supreme Court Justices have been nominated by President Donald Trump to serve on the United States District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi. Trump announced Tuesday by way of Truth Social that he was nominating Justices Robert Chamberlin and James Maxwell to the federal court.” [Magnolia Tribune, [8/12/25](#)]

- **2016: Chamberlin Was Elected To An Open Seat On The Mississippi Supreme Court.** “Justice Robert P. Chamberlin of Hernando joined the Mississippi Supreme Court on Jan. 3, 2017. Justice Chamberlin was elected in a runoff election on Nov. 29, 2016, to an open seat on the Supreme Court.” [State of Mississippi Judiciary, accessed [8/18/25](#)]

Chamberlin Served On The 17th Circuit District Beginning In 2004 And Co-Founded The 17th Circuit Drug Court In 2006. “Justice Chamberlin served for 12 years as a circuit judge of the 17th Circuit District. Then Gov. Haley Barbour appointed him to the 17th Circuit bench on Nov. 24, 2004. The district includes DeSoto, Panola, Tallahatchie, Tate and Yalobusha counties. In 2006 he co founded the 17th Circuit Drug Court with then-Circuit Judge Ann Lamar. He served as chairman and vice chairman of the Conference of Circuit Judges.” [State of Mississippi Judiciary, accessed [8/18/25](#)]

Chamberlin Served In Senate District 1 From 2000-2004, And Worked As Vice Chairman Of The Universities And Colleges Committee And Chairman Of The Elections Committee. “He was elected to

the Mississippi Senate in 1999, and served Senate District 1 of DeSoto County for five years. He was vice chairman of the Universities and Colleges Committee from 2000 to 2003 as well as chairman of the Elections Committee in 2004. He was selected as Legislator of the Year by the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers Association in 2003. While serving in the Senate, he attended by invitation the National Security Seminar held at the United States Army War College.” [State of Mississippi Judiciary, accessed [8/18/25](#)]

- **In The Senate, Chamberlin Sponsored Bills About Hunting Licenses, Telephone Solicitations, Warehouse Taxes, And Other Issues.** [Mississippi Legislature, Senator Robert P. Chamberlin, [12/20/01](#)]

Chamberlin Served As A Municipal Judge For The City Of Hernando From 1991 To 1999. “He served as Municipal Court Judge for the City of Hernando from 1991 to 1999. He served as Municipal Prosecutor for the City of Horn Lake in 1992. He also served as a Special Master in Chancery Court. Shortly after he graduated from law school, he went to work for what was to become the Austin Law Firm in Hernando and later formed Chamberlin Nowak, P.C. He was in private law practice for 14 years, and served as attorney for the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors for four years. He is a member of the American Inns of Court.” [State of Mississippi Judiciary, accessed [8/18/25](#)]

In The Mississippi Senate, Chamberlin Sponsored Resolutions To Amend The State Constitution To Ban Gay Marriage

Chamberlin Sponsored Resolutions To Prevent Same-Sex Marriages

Chamberlin Sponsored A Resolution To Amend The Mississippi Constitution To Define Marriage As Between A Man And Woman

2004: Chamberlin Sponsored A Senate Resolution To Amend The Mississippi Constitution To State Marriage May Only Be Between A Man And Woman And That Out-Of-State Same-Sex Marriages Would Not Be Recognized. “By: [...] Chamberlin [...] SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 514 [...] A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROPOSING TO AMEND THE MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION OF 1890 BY CREATING A NEW SECTION 263-A TO PROVIDE THAT MARRIAGE MAY TAKE PLACE AND MAY BE VALID UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS STATE ONLY BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN; TO PROVIDE THAT A MARRIAGE IN ANOTHER STATE OR FOREIGN JURISDICTION BETWEEN PERSONS OF THE SAME GENDER, REGARDLESS OF WHEN THE MARRIAGE TOOK PLACE, MAY NOT BE RECOGNIZED IN THIS STATE AND IS VOID AND UNENFORCEABLE UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS STATE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.” [Mississippi Legislature, SCR No. 514, Regular Session [2004](#)]

SCR 514 Died In House Committee After Passing The Senate. “03/15 (S) Adopted [...] 04/06 (H) Died In Committee” [Mississippi Legislature, SCR No. 514, [4/6/24](#)]

Chamberlin Sponsored A Resolution Calling For A Federal Ban Of Gay Marriage

2004: Chamberlin Sponsored A Senate Resolution To Urge The U.S. Congress To Propose A Constitutional Amendment To Federally Define Marriage As Only Between A Man And A Woman. “By: [...] Chamberlin [...] SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 519 [...] A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROVIDE A FEDERAL DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE AND TO SUBMIT SUCH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO THE SEVERAL STATES FOR PROPER RATIFICATION.” [Mississippi Legislature, SCR No. 519, Regular Session [2004](#)]

SCR 519 Died In House Committee After Passing The Senate. “02/27 (S) Adopted [...] 05/09 (H) Died In Committee” [Mississippi Legislature, SCR No. 519, [5/9/04](#)]

Chamberlin Sponsored A Bill To Require Voter ID

Chamberlin Was The Lead Sponsor Of A Bill To Require Voter ID. “By: Senator(s) Chamberlin, [...] SENATE BILL NO. 2002 [...] AN ACT TO REQUIRE PERSONS WHO APPEAR TO VOTE IN PERSON AT A POLLING PLACE OR THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES BY PRESENTING CERTAIN TYPES OF IDENTIFICATION TO AN ELECTION MANAGER OR THE REGISTRAR BEFORE THEY ARE ALLOWED TO VOTE” [Mississippi Legislature, SB No. 2002, First Extraordinary Session [2004](#)]

SB 2002 Died In House Committee After Passing The Senate. “05/19 (S) Passed [...] 06/08 (H) Died In Committee” [Mississippi Legislature, SB No. 2002, [6/8/04](#)]

On The Bench, Chamberlin Voted To Deny A Transgender Teen’s Name-Change Petition And Uphold A Harsh 12-Year Sentence For A Man Who Carried A Cellphone Into Prison

April 2025: Chamberlin Voted To Deny A Transgender Teenager’s Name-Change Petition, Despite His Parents Consenting

April 2025: The Mississippi Supreme Court Upheld A Ruling Denying A Transgender Teenager’s Name-Change Petition, Despite The Parents Consenting. “The Mississippi Supreme Court on Thursday upheld a ruling denying a transgender teen’s name-change petition. The ruling comes nearly two years after a then 16-year-old undergoing a gender transition filed a petition to change his name to better fit his gender identity. Both of the teen’s parents consented to the name change. But Hinds County Chancery Judge Tametrice Hodges in November 2023 denied the petition, citing the teen’s lack of maturity.” [Associated Press, [4/17/25](#)]

Justice Chamberlin Concurred. “Because the chancellor did not manifestly err by dismissing the petition to be refiled when the minor is more mature, we affirm. [...] RANDOLPH, C.J., COLEMAN, P.J., CHAMBERLIN, ISHEE, GRIFFIS, SULLIVAN AND BRANNING, JJ., CONCUR. KING, P.J., DISSENTS WITH SEPARATE WRITTEN OPINION.” [Supreme Court of Mississippi, Petition of S.M.-B v. Mississippi State Board of Health, Opinion, filed [4/17/25](#)]

The Court Referred To The Transgender Boy As A “Young Female” And Used Feminine Pronouns. “The Mississippi Supreme Court voted 8-1 to uphold the ruling, referring in the ruling to the trans boy as a ‘minor female’ and using feminine pronouns.” [Associated Press, [4/23/25](#)]

April 2018: Chamberlin Concurred In Part And Dissented In Part In A Case Granting Same-Sex Couples The Same Parenting Rights As Different Sex Couples, Agreeing That The Sperm Donor Was Wrongly Granted Parental Rights But Cautioning Against The Court Overstepping

The Court Ruled That Married Same-Sex Couples Have The Same Parenting Rights As Different Sex Couples

April 2018: The Mississippi Supreme Court Ruled That Married Same-Sex Couples Have The Same Parenting Rights As Different Sex Couples In A Case Involving A Non-Biological Lesbian Mother's Custody Case. "Today, Mississippi Supreme Court ruled that married same-sex couples should have the same parenting rights as different sex couples in a Lambda Legal case on behalf of Chris Strickland, a non-biological lesbian mother who was denied legal parentage for children she and her now ex-wife planned for and raised together. The court remanded the appeal, filed with local counsel Dianne Ellis, back to the trial court." [Lambda Legal, [4/5/18](#)]

The Majority Found That The Chancery Court Erred Because An Anonymous Sperm Donor Is Not A Legal Parent Whose Rights Must Be Terminated And The Doctrine Of Equitable Estoppel Precluded Challenging The Non-Biological Mother's Legal Parentage. "After review of the record and the relevant law, we find that the chancery court erred in this finding. First, an anonymous sperm donor is not a legal parent whose rights must be terminated. And second, the doctrine of equitable estoppel precludes Kimberly from challenging Christina's legal parentage of Z.S. And so we reverse the findings of the chancery court and remand the case for a custody determination in a manner that is consistent with this opinion." [Supreme Court of Mississippi, Strickland v. Day, Opinion, [4/5/18](#)]

- **Equitable Estoppel Is A Legal Defense That Prevents A Party From Using A Right Against A Person When The Right Arises From Misleading Actions.** "Estoppel in pais (also called equitable estoppel) is a defense doctrine that prevents a party from using a right against another party when the right arises out of misleading actions from the person claiming the right. The doctrine arose under common law as a method for preventing someone from taking unfair advantage of another through legal channels. For example, if someone misleads their partner to believe they were legally married, they cannot use the illegitimacy of the marriage later in divorce proceedings as an argument against splitting property in half." [Cornell Law School, Legal Information Institute, accessed [8/22/25](#)]

Chamberlin Joined Multiple Writings In Part, Appearing To Argue That The Sperm Donor Should Not Have Been Given Parental Rights But That The Court Went Too Far And Should Have Remanded The Case To The Trial Judge

Chamberlin Joined Chief Justice Waller's Concurrence In Part, Stating That Two People Legally Married Should Both Be Considered Parents For The Determination Of Parental Rights But Calling On The Legislature To Speak To The Issue. "The narrow issue before the Court is whether two people legally married who jointly engage in a process of assisted reproduction technology resulting in the natural birth by the gestational mother are both considered parents for purposes of divorce and determination of parental rights of the minor child. I conclude that they are and that the decision of the chancellor should be reversed and remanded. [...] While this Court can use common-law principles to render a decision here, the Legislature should speak directly to the recognition of the legal status of children born during a marriage as the result of assisted reproductive technology. [...] RANDOLPH, P.J., COLEMAN, MAXWELL AND CHAMBERLIN, JJ., JOIN THIS OPINION IN PART." [Supreme Court of Mississippi, Strickland v. Day, Opinion, [4/5/18](#)]

Chamberlin Joined The Opinion Of Justice Coleman In Full, Who Concurred In Part And Dissented In Part, Saying All Justices Agreed The Lower Court Judge Erred In Finding The Parental Rights Of The Anonymous Sperm Donor Must Be Terminated Before Adjudicating The Non-Biological Mother's Legal Status, But Also Stating He Could Not Rule On Equitable Estoppel Because It Was Not Presented To The Trial Court. "All justices agree that, at least in the instant case, the trial judge erred in finding that the parental rights of the anonymous sperm donor must be terminated before the legal status of Christina Day could be adjudicated. However, I agree with Presiding Justice Randolph that we should not be rendering a decision based on an issue never presented to the trial court, e.g., the application of equitable estoppel. Accordingly, I would reverse the chancellor's order, hold that he erred in finding that the anonymous sperm donor enjoyed parental rights, and remand the case to the trial court to allow the parties to present whatever

evidence and arguments they wish that accord with the Court's holding. [...] CHAMBERLIN, J., JOINS THIS OPINION." [Supreme Court of Mississippi, Strickland v. Day, Opinion, [4/5/18](#)]

Chamberlin Joined The Opinion Of Justice Maxwell In Part, Who Concurred In Part And Dissented In Part, Writing That The Sperm Donor Should Not Have Been Declared The Natural Father, And That The Legislature Should Determine Parental Rights For A Sperm Donor Rather Than The Court Heavily Weighing In. "MAXWELL, JUSTICE, CONCURRING IN PART AND DISSENTING IN PART: I agree with the plurality that the chancellor wrongly declared the sperm donor the natural father. [...] The proper course is to remand to the chancellor for factual findings, keeping in mind the polestar consideration of all custody matters—the best interest of the child. I do, however, agree with Chief Justice Waller on one point—what parental rights a sperm donor may or may not have is a policy issue for the Legislature, not the Court. [...] Indeed, it is dangerous for the plurality to weigh in so heavily with what it views to be the best policy, since we all agree the chancellor erroneously inserted this issue into the case. [...] CHAMBERLIN, J., JOINS THIS OPINION IN PART." [Supreme Court of Mississippi, Strickland v. Day, Opinion, [4/5/18](#)]

Chamberlin Joined The Opinion Of Justice Randolph In Part, Who Wrote That A Trial Court Could Not Be Held In Error For An Issue Not Presented To It. "Finally, our precedent mandates that a trial court cannot be held in error for an issue not presented to it for determination. [...] Equitable estoppel was raised for the first time on appeal, and therefore should not be considered by this Court. [...] COLEMAN, MAXWELL AND CHAMBERLIN, JJ., JOIN THIS OPINION IN PART." [Supreme Court of Mississippi, Strickland v. Day, Opinion, [4/5/18](#)]

January 2020: Chamberlin Upheld A 12-Year Prison Sentence For A Man Who Brought His Cellphone Into County Jail

January 2020: The Mississippi Supreme Court Unanimously Upheld A 12-Year Prison Sentence For A Black Man Who Carried His Cellphone Into A County Jail Cell. "The Mississippi Supreme Court's confirmation of a 12-year prison sentence for an African American man who carried his mobile phone into a county jail cell is being slammed as a brutal example of racial injustice." [Associated Press, [1/16/20](#)]

- **A 2012 Law Set A Sentencing Range Of Three To 15 Years For Inmates Found With Cellphones In State Jails.** "A 2012 Mississippi law sets a sentencing range of three to 15 years for inmates found with deadly weapons, cellphones or components of cellphones in state jails and prisons." [Associated Press, [1/16/20](#)]

Chamberlin Concurred With The Opinion. "RANDOLPH, C.J., KITCHENS, P.J., COLEMAN, BEAM, CHAMBERLIN AND GRIFFIS, JJ., CONCUR. KING, P.J., SPECIALLY CONCURS WITH SEPARATE WRITTEN OPINION JOINED BY KITCHENS, P.J.; ISHEE, J., JOINS IN PART. ISHEE, J., CONCURS IN RESULT ONLY WITHOUT SEPARATE WRITTEN OPINION. KING, PRESIDING JUSTICE, SPECIALLY CONCURRING:" [Supreme Court of Mississippi, Willie Nash v. State of Mississippi, Opinion, [1/9/20](#)]

The Court's Only Black Justice Wrote That The Case Demonstrated A Failure Of The Criminal Justice System And Sentencing Reform Advocates Expressed Outrage Over The Case. "Justice Leslie King is currently the only African American justice on the nine-member court. He wrote that Willie Nash's case 'seems to demonstrate a failure of our criminal justice system on multiple levels' because it's not clear whether Nash was properly searched or told not to take his phone into his cell when he was booked on a misdemeanor charge. Sentencing reform advocates have expressed outrage, and Leonard Pitts, a nationally syndicated Miami Herald columnist, published Gov. Tate Reeves' phone number, urging readers to tell the newly inaugurated governor to 'let my people go.'" [Associated Press, [1/16/20](#)]

Chamberlin Has Voted In Line With Some Democratic Protections, Striking Down A Racially Discriminatory Law And Dissenting In A Case Attacking The State's Ballot Initiative Program

September 2024: Chamberlin Dissented After The Court Ruled That A Man On Death Row Did Not Have A Right To Have New Evidence Heard In Court

September 2024: The Mississippi Supreme Court Ruled 5-4 That A Man On Death Row Did Not Have A Right To Have New Evidence Heard In Court, With Chamberlin Joining The Minority. “The Mississippi Supreme Court was divided 5-4 in its ruling against a man on death row, saying Willie Jerome Manning did not have a right to have new evidence heard in court. ‘Today the Court perverts its function as an appellate court and makes factual determinations that belong squarely within the purview of the circuit court judge,’ Justice James Kitchens wrote on behalf of the minority, which included Justices Leslie King, Josiah Coleman and Robert Chamberlin.” [Mississippi Clarion Ledger, [9/24/24](#)]

- **The Scientific Evidence Used To Help Convict The Man Had Fallen Apart In Later Years, With The FBI Saying Conclusions Were Not Supported And An Informant Recanting.** “He remains on death row, convicted of the 1992 murders of two Mississippi State University students, Jon Stephen Steckler and Pamela Tiffany Miller, but the scientific evidence that helped convict him has fallen apart. At trial, an FBI examiner told jurors that bullets fired into a tree, allegedly by Manning, matched those used to kill the couple to the exclusion of all other guns. The FBI later said such a conclusion was not supported by scientific standards. Another FBI examiner testified that hairs found in Miller’s car belonged to someone Black. Steckler and Miller were white, and Manning is Black. The FBI later called such hair analysis invalid.” [Mississippi Today, [11/14/24](#)]

September 2023: Chamberlin Concurred With An Opinion Striking Down A Discriminatory Law Creating Unelected Special Circuit Court Justices

September 2023: The Mississippi Supreme Court Struck Down The State Legislature’s Attempt To Create Four Unelected Special Circuit Court Justices. “The Mississippi Legislature’s attempt to create four unelected special circuit court judges in Hinds County is unconstitutional, the Mississippi Supreme Court ruled today, while upholding House Bill 1020’s creation of a single inferior court in Jackson’s Capitol Complex Improvement District. Justices heard arguments in the case in July. In an 8-0 decision, the justices agreed with resident plaintiffs Ann Saunders, Sabvreen Sharriff and Dorothy Triplett’s argument that H.B. 1020 ‘Section 1’s creation of four new appointed ‘temporary special circuit judges’ in the Seventh Circuit Court District for a specified, almost-four-year term violates our Constitution’s requirement that circuit judges be elected for a four-year term.’” [Mississippi Free Press, [9/21/23](#)]

Justice Chamberlin Concurred With The Opinion. “EN BANC. MAXWELL, JUSTICE, FOR THE COURT: [...] For these reasons, we affirm in part and reverse and render in part the chancellor’s order dismissing Saunders’s complaint. Specifically, we affirm the dismissal of her claims that House Bill 1020, Section 4, and Section 9-1-105(2) are unconstitutional. [...] COLEMAN, BEAM, CHAMBERLIN, ISHEE AND GRIFFIS, JJ., CONCUR” [Supreme Court of Mississippi, Saunders v. Mississippi, Opinion filed [9/21/23](#)]

June 2021: Chamberlin Dissented After The Mississippi Supreme Court Killed The State’s Ballot Initiative Program

June 2021: The Mississippi Supreme Court Nullified The State’s Citizen Initiative And Referendum Program. “Mississippi voters finally regained the right to make changes by ballot-initiative after a seven-decade stint without it. But last month, the Mississippi Supreme Court once more cited a technicality as

it nullified Section 273(3), the state constitution's 1992 ballot-initiative law, after the mayor of Madison, Miss., objected to a voter-approved medical-marijuana law." [Mississippi Free Press, [6/1/21](#)]

Chamberlin Dissented, Writing That the Opinion "Invites" Absurdity. "Justice Robert Chamberlin, in a dissenting opinion wrote that the majority ruling, 'does not avoid absurdity, rather, it invites it.'" [Mississippi Today, [5/14/21](#)]

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