

President Trump's Judicial Nominee To Serve On The U.S. Court For The Middle Of North Carolina, David Bragdon, Has Defended Clarence Thomas During His Corruption Scandal, Stated That Women Must "Face Consequences" For Unwanted Pregnancies, And Advocated For The Reduction Of Social Safety Nets For Low-Income Americans

SUMMARY: President Donald Trump has [nominated](#) David Alan Bragdon to serve as a federal judge on the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina. According to Bragdon's [LinkedIn profile](#), he has spent the past 18 years as a federal prosecutor and has previously [clerked](#) for Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, whom Bragdon has defended in light of revelations that Thomas had accepted nearly \$1.8 million worth of gifts from right-wing billionaire [Harlan Crow](#), including luxury vacations and valuable historical artifacts. Bragdon joined 111 other former Thomas clerks in [signing an open letter](#) defending the Justice's "integrity, character, and ethics," dismissing the reports as "malicious" attacks on the Supreme Court's legitimacy.

Bragdon's judicial nomination comes with a documented history of extreme conservative positions revealed through a [personal blog he maintained from 1997 to 2000](#) titled "David Bragdon's Radical Conservative, Republican, Libertarian Home Page." In his writings, Bragdon [argued](#) that abortion is fundamentally wrong because "a fetus has just as much right to life as an infant does," and controversially stated that women seeking abortions "[must face the consequences](#)" for their "poor judgment" in not using birth control. He also advocated for dramatically reducing social safety nets, characterizing welfare as "[expensive, addictive, and victimizing](#)" while proposing to limit [all welfare benefits for able-bodied citizens](#) to just one year. These positions stand in stark contrast to current realities, where [nearly 100 million Americans](#) receive some form of government assistance. Additionally, Bragdon used his blog to advocate for more frequent use of the death penalty, comparing the American Revolutionary War and calling it a fight to "[protect our freedom](#)." He proposed lowering the jury requirement for death sentences from unanimous agreement to just 9 out of 12 jurors. On the topic of gerrymandering, Bragdon argued that partisan redistricting is merely "[part of the political process](#)" that courts should not heavily regulate, while simultaneously claiming that racial gerrymandering designed to increase Black voting power "[strengthen\[s\] segregation](#)" and causes "[the very problems that it is trying to prevent](#)."

Bragdon's willingness to defend Justice Thomas amid unprecedented ethics scandals, combined with his documented views that women should "face consequences" for unwanted pregnancies and that welfare creates dependency among Americans, and his extreme beliefs regarding the death penalty could suggest that his judicial philosophy could significantly harm the most vulnerable Americans.

President Donald Trump Nominated David Bragdon To The U.S. District Court For The Middle Of North Carolina

President Trump Announced On Social Media That He Nominated David Bragdon To Serve On The U.S. District Court For The Middle District Of North Carolina

August 22, 2025: President Donald Trump Nominated David Alan Bragdon To Serve As A Judge On The U.S. District Court For The Middle District Of North Carolina.



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Donald J. Trump Truth Social 08.22.25 06:48 PM EST

It is my Great Honor to announce the nomination of David Bragdon to serve as Judge on the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina. A proud graduate of UVA School of Law and Campbell University, David is currently fighting to protect Law and Order as an Assistant U.S. Attorney. He gained incredible experience clerking for United States Supreme Court Justice, Clarence Thomas, and I know he will do a TREMENDOUS job in this new position. Our Constitution will be protected, and the Rule of Law will be upheld. Congratulations David!

7:49 PM · Aug 22, 2025 · **115.2K** Views

[Twitter/X, @TrumpDailyPosts, [8/22/25](#)]

Bragdon Earned A Law Degree From The University Of Virginia School of Law And Served As The Communications Co-Chair For The North Carolina Bar Association

Bragdon Earned His Law Degree From The University Of Virginia School of Law. “David Alan Bragdon earned his law degree from University of Virginia School of Law (1999 – 2002) and his B.A from Campbell University (1995 – 1999).” [Alliance for Justice, accessed [9/4/25](#)]

Bragdon Served As The Communications Co-Chair For The North Carolina Bar Association.

NORTH CAROLINA BAR ASSOCIATION		Find a Lawyer Join NCBA	
For Members	CLE	Explore NCBA	For The Public
Committee Leadership			
Appellate Insights Committee Co-Chair Christy Cochran Dunn Young Moore & Henderson PA		Appellate Insights Committee Co-Chair Nathan Ward Wilson Fox Rothschild LLP	
ARC Liaison Jaye Elizabeth Bingham-Hinch Batten Lee PLLC		CLE Committee Co-Chair Jill Jackson	
Moot Court Co-Chair Erin Christina Blondel US Attorneys Office Eastern Dist		Communications Co-Chair David Alan Bragdon US Attorneys Office Eastern Dist	

[North Carolina Bar Association, accessed [9/4/25](#)]

- **The North Carolina Bar Association Is A Voluntary Membership Organization Of Lawyers, Judges, Paralegals, And Law Students Dedicated To Serving The Public.** “The North Carolina Bar Association is a voluntary membership organization of lawyers, judges, paralegals and law students dedicated to serving the public and the legal profession.” [North Carolina Bar Association, accessed [9/4/25](#)]

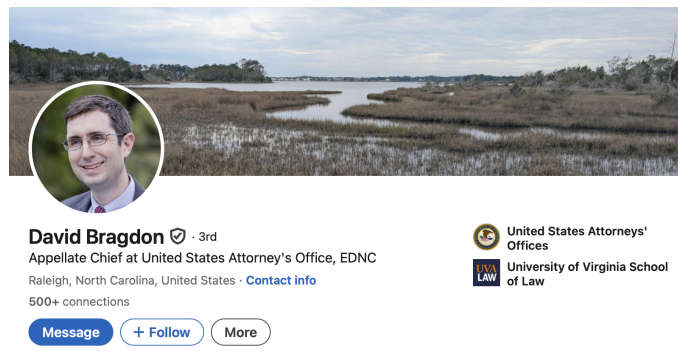
October 2016: Bragdon Was Appointed To Serve As The District Election Officer For The Eastern District Of North Carolina

Bragdon Was Appointed To Serve As The District Election Officer For The Eastern District Of North Carolina, Which Oversees The District’s Handling Of Any Complaints Of Election Fraud Or Voting Rights. “United States Attorney John Stuart Bruce announced today that Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) David A. Bragdon will lead the efforts of the U.S. Attorney’s Office in connection with the Justice Department’s nationwide Election Day Program for the upcoming November 8, 2016, general elections. AUSA Bragdon has been appointed to serve as the District Election Officer (DEO) for the Eastern District of North Carolina, and in that capacity is responsible for overseeing the District’s handling of any complaints of election fraud or voting rights abuses in consultation with Justice Department Headquarters in Washington.” [U.S. Attorney’s Office Eastern District of North Carolina, [10/25/16](#)]

- **Bragdon Was Responsible For Responding To Complaints Of Election Fraud Or Alleged Voting Rights Abuses During The 2016 Election.** “In order to respond to complaints of election fraud or voting rights abuses on November 8, 2016, and to ensure that such complaints are directed to the appropriate authorities, United States Attorney Bruce stated that AUSA/DEO Bragdon will be on duty in this District while the polls are open. He can be reached by the public at the following telephone number: 919-856-4808.” [U.S. Attorney’s Office Eastern District of North Carolina, [10/25/16](#)]

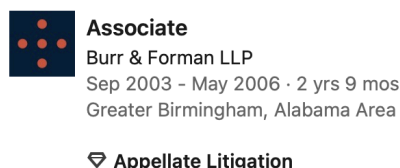
According To His LinkedIn Page, From 2003 Until 2006, Bragdon Worked As An Associate At An Alabama-Based Law Firm Called Burr & Forman LLP

David Bragdon Has A LinkedIn Profile.



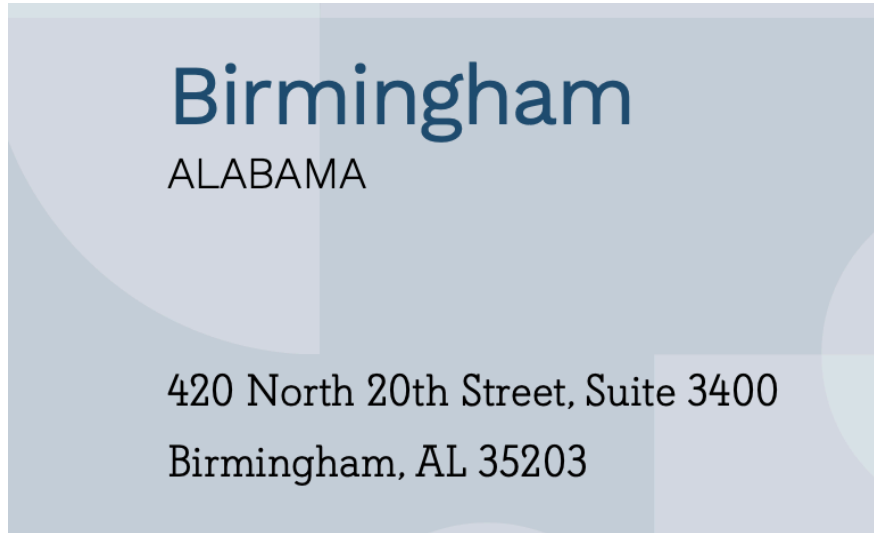
[LinkedIn, accessed [9/4/25](#)]

According To His LinkedIn Page, Bragdon Worked As An Associate At Burr & Forman LLP.



[LinkedIn, accessed [9/4/25](#)]

- Burr & Forman LLP Is Based In Birmingham, Alabama.

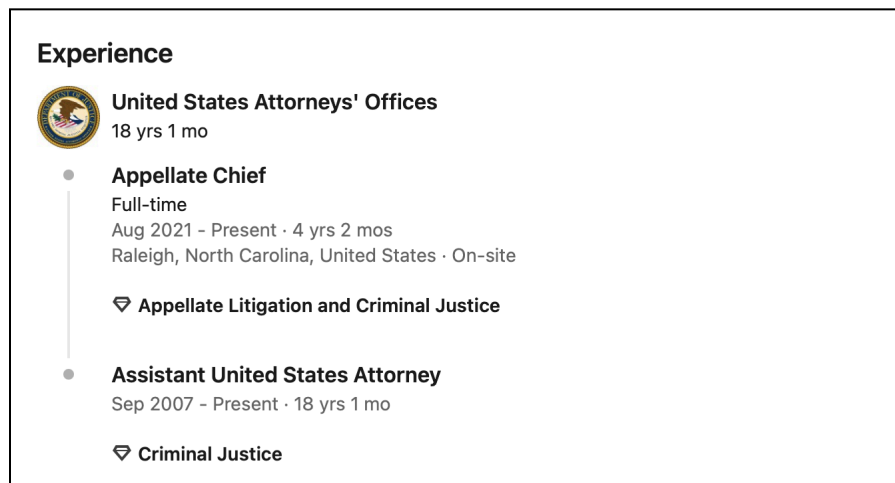


[Burr & Forman, accessed [9/5/25](#)]

- **Burr & Forman Is A Regional Law Firm With Approximately 370 Attorneys In Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, And D.C.** "Burr & Forman's experienced legal team serves clients with local, national, and international legal needs. With particular industry strengths in the financial institutions, manufacturing, health care, and food and beverage sectors, our attorneys draw from a diverse range of backgrounds and experience to serve as trusted business advisors and legal counsel to help clients achieve their goals. Burr & Forman is a regional law firm with 370 attorneys in Alabama, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. [Burr & Forman, accessed [9/5/25](#)]

According To His LinkedIn Page, Bragdon Has Spent The Past 18 Years Working At The U.S. Attorney's Office As A Federal Prosecutor And Has Served In Other Roles Such As A Professor At Campbell University, And Worked As A Resident Legal Advisor For The Department Of Justice

According To His LinkedIn Page, Bragdon Has Been Working At The United States Attorneys' Office For The Past 18 Years.



[LinkedIn, accessed [9/4/25](#)]

According To His LinkedIn Page, Bragdon Worked As An Adjunct Professor At Campbell University For Five Months.



Adjunct Professor

Campbell University, Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law · Part-time

Jan 2023 - May 2023 · 5 mos

Raleigh, North Carolina, United States · On-site

Legislation - Spring Semester

 University Teaching

[LinkedIn, accessed [9/4/25](#)]

- **Campbell University Is A Christian Institution Located In North Carolina.** “Campbell University is a Christian institution dedicated to providing a comprehensive education rooted in faith and service. Located in the heart of North Carolina, Campbell blends academic rigor with a commitment to developing leaders prepared to make a meaningful impact in their communities and beyond.” [Faith On View, accessed [9/5/25](#)]

According To His LinkedIn Page, Bragdon Worked At The U.S. Justice Department As A Resident Legal Advisor To The Philippines For Approximately Three Years And Five Months.



Resident Legal Advisor to the Philippines

U.S. Department of Justice · Full-time

Mar 2017 - Jul 2020 · 3 yrs 5 mos

Philippines · On-site

 International Development

[LinkedIn, accessed [9/4/25](#)]

Bragdon Clerked For Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas And Judge Stephen Williams, Who Was Appointed By President Reagan To Serve On The U.S. Court Of Appeals For The District Of Columbia Circuit

According To His LinkedIn Page, Bragdon Clerked For Justice Clarence Thomas For A Little Over A Year.



Judicial Law Clerk to Justice Thomas

United States Supreme Court

Jul 2006 - Jul 2007 · 1 yr 1 mo

 Appellate Litigation

[LinkedIn, accessed [9/4/25](#)]

- **As His Clerk, Bragdon Assisted Thomas With Researching Cases And Writing Supreme Court Opinions And Analyzed Petitions And Draft Memos.** “As his clerk, Bragdon assisted Thomas with researching cases and writing Supreme Court opinions and analyzed petitions and draft memos covering numerous criminal and civil matters such as habeas law, sentencing guidelines, elements of federal crimes, inadequate assistance of counsel and cruel and unusual punishment.” [Campbell University, accessed [9/4/25](#)]
- **Justice Clarence Thomas Was Nominated By President George H. W. Bush To Serve On The Supreme Court.** “On July 1, 1991, President Bush nominated Thomas to the Supreme Court of the United States. The Senate confirmed the appointment on October 15, 1991.” [Supreme Court Historical Society, accessed [9/5/25](#)]

Bragdon Also Clerked For Judge Stephen Williams. “David A. Bragdon, assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina, was named a Distinguished Government Alumnus of Campbell University at the 2007 Government and History Distinguished Alumnus brunch held Saturday, Oct. 20 during the University’s Homecoming event. Bragdon, who recently completed a clerkship with United States Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, also clerked for Judge Stephen Williams, U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.” [Campbell University, [10/23/07](#)]

- **Stephen Fain Williams Was Appointed By President Ronald Reagan For The U.S. Court Of Appeals For The District Of Columbia Circuit.** “Stephen Fain Williams was an Article III federal judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. He joined the court in 1986 after being nominated by President Ronald Reagan (R). Williams assumed senior status on September 30, 2001.” [Ballotpedia, accessed [9/4/25](#)]

After Numerous Reports Revealed That Justice Clarence Thomas Unethically Accepted Millions Worth Of Gifts From A Right-Wing Billionaire, Bragdon Signed Onto A Letter Defending Thomas’s Character

Justice Clarence Thomas Accepted Gifts From Republican Donor And Billionaire, Harlan Crow

Harlan Crown Is A Billionaire GOP Donor. “Harlan Crow, the billionaire GOP donor who paid for luxury travel on his private jet and yacht for Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, was a dual citizen of the U.S. and the island nation of St. Kitts and Nevis as recently as last year, according to recently unearthed documents.” [Project on Government Oversight, [4/25/23](#)]

Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas Accepted Millions Of Dollars Worth Of Gifts From Billionaires Like Harlan Crow. “Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas accepted millions of dollars’ worth of gifts over the past two decades on the bench, a total nearly 10 times the value of all gifts received by his fellow justices during the same time, according to a new analysis. [...] Fix the Court identified another 101 ‘likely gifts’ — with a total estimated value of almost \$1.8 million — that Thomas received in the form of free trips and lodging from billionaire businessman Harlan Crow, and at the exclusive Bohemian Grove club.” [CNBC, [6/6/24](#)]

Between 2004 And 2023, Justice Thomas Received 103 Gifts With A Total Value Of Approximately \$2.4 Million “Thomas received 103 gifts with a total value of more than \$2.4 million between 2004 and 2023, the judicial reform group Fix the Court said in a report Thursday.” [CNBC, [6/6/24](#)]

Bragdon Signed Onto An Open Letter Defending Thomas's Character, Integrity, And Ethics After Reports Came Out Detailing His Acceptance Of Gifts From Harlan Crow

Bragdon, Along With 111 Other Individuals Who Clerked For Justice Clarence Thomas, Signed A Letter Defending Justice Clarence Thomas

Bragdon Signed Onto A Letter That “Reject Attacks On [Thomas's] Integrity, His Character, Or His Ethics.

We are proud to have been his clerks and to remain his friends, and we unequivocally reject attacks on his integrity, his character, or his ethics.

Bijan Aboutorabi
John Adams
Russell Balikian
Matthew Berry
Steven G. Bradbury
David A. Bragdon

Ashley E. Johnson
Eric J. Kadel, Jr.
Brittney Lane Kubisch
Christopher Landau
Brian Charles Lea
Thomas R. Lee

Sai Prakash
Craig Primis
M. Scott Proctor
Haley N. Proctor
Austin L. Raynor
Matt Rice

[staticfoxnews.com, accessed [9/4/25](#)]

- **The Open Letter Expressed That “Malicious” Stories Were Questioning Thomas's Integrity And Was A Part Of A Larger Attack On The Supreme Court And Its Legitimacy.**

And yet, the stories most often told of Justice Thomas are not these. The Justice is ever the subject of political headlines taking aim at his character, his judicial philosophy, his marriage, even his race. They attempt to write over his actual story. Lately, the stories have questioned his integrity and his ethics for the friends he keeps. They bury the lede. These friends are not parties before him as a Justice of the Court. And these stories are malicious, perpetuating the ugly assumption that the Justice cannot think for himself. They are part of a larger attack on the Court and its legitimacy as an institution. The picture they paint of the Court and the man for whom we worked bears no resemblance to reality.

[staticfoxnews.com, accessed [9/4/25](#)]

Bragdon Was The Creator Of A Personal Blog To Where He Claimed That A Fetus Has “Just As Much Right To Life As An Infant Does,” Said That A Woman “Must Face Consequences” For Seeking An Abortion, And Advocated To Reduce Welfare For Low-Income Americans

Bragdon Kept A Personal Blog In The Late Nineties And Early Aughts

From 1997 To 2000, David Bragdon Had A Personal Blog Webpage

Bragdon's Main Page Was Entitled, “David Bragdon's Radical Conservative, Republican, Libertarian Home Page.”



[Web Archive, accessed [9/4/25](#)]

On His Blog, Bragdon Urged His Viewers To Care About Politics Because When “Liberals Win, You Will Lose”

On The Homepage Of His Blog, Bragdon Posted, “Why Should You Care? Because When Liberals Win, You Will Lose; And Only YOU Can Make A Difference!!!”

Why should you care? Because when the liberals win, you will lose; and only *YOU* can make a difference!!!

[Web Archive, accessed [9/5/25](#)]

Bragdon Said That The Purpose Of His Webpage Was To Be A Reference For Individuals Researching Political And Religious Questions And Provide Information About The “Battles” Going On In The World. “The purpose of this WEB page is to be a reference for people researching various political and religious questions, and to provide interesting information for those who want to know more about the battles going on around us.” [Web Archive, [6/6/00](#)]

Bragdon Wrote An Article Claiming That A Fetus Has The Same Right To Life As An Infant And Said That Women Must “Face Consequences” For Her Poor Judgement By Not Using Birth Control

Bragdon Wrote An Article Where He Claimed That Abortion Is Wrong And That A Fetus Has Just As Much Right To Life As An Infant Does

Bragdon Wrote That “Abortion Is Wrong” And Claimed That “A Person Has Just As Much Right To Life As A Fetus Does.” “Abortion is wrong because person or not, a fetus has just as much right to life as an infant does. According to ‘Life in the Balance’ by Robert N. Wennberg, ‘a person (in the strict sense) is a being who possesses the developed capacity to engage in acts of intellect (to think, use language, ect. [sic.]), acts of emotion (to love, to hate, ect. [sic.]), and acts of will (to make moral choices, to affirm spiritual ideals, ect. [sic.]).’ By this strict definition a fetus is not a person, but then neither is a baby. Why then do we not kill babies? It is because they will one day be persons; they are potential persons. They will one day become someone valuable to society. In the same way a fetus is a potential person. Just like the baby it will one day be a full grown adult and a part of society.” [Web Archive, accessed [6/4/00](#)]

Bragdon Wrote That The U.S. Constitution Protects Fetuses And Said That Women Do Not Need The Pursuit Of Happiness When It Comes To Seeking An Abortion. “Secondly our constitution protects the fetus. The constitution grants life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness to all. Well the mother needs her pursuit

of happiness, doesn't she. After all she didn't want the baby to come in the first place. Since it is in her pursuit of happiness to kill the fetus, she is protected by the constitution.” [Web Archive, accessed [6/4/00](#)]

Bragdon Wrote That Each Mother Already Had A Choice, But Non-Abortionists Believe That The Choice Comes Before A Woman Becomes Pregnant. “Each mother going to get an abortion already had her choice. Everyone is pro-choice in one way or another. Non-abortionists just believe that the choice comes before the baby.” [Web Archive, accessed [6/4/00](#)]

Bragdon Wrote That A Fetus Is Both A Living Human Being And A Potential Person, Therefore Is Granted The Opportunity To Life, Liberty, And The Pursuit Of Happiness. “A fetus is both a living human being, and also a potential person, and thus should be treated just as an infant is, who is no different. Our constitution grants life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness to all, this means also the fetus because it is a living human being and a potential person.” [Web Archive, accessed [6/4/00](#)]

Bragdon Wrote That Women Must “Face The Consequences” For Their “Poor Judgment”

Bragdon Wrote That Women Know The Risk When Choosing Not To Use Birth Control And “Thus Must Face The Consequences For “Poor Judgement.” “Why are we trying to give women a choice when they already have one. Should an innocent child suffer for a woman's wrong decision. Should our government make the child pay the consequences for the woman's poor judgment. The woman knew the risk when she chose not to use birth control and thus must face the consequences.” [Web Archive, accessed [6/4/00](#)]

Bragdon Wrote That ‘A Woman Chooses Whether Or Take The Risk Of Getting Pregnant, And The Baby Shouldn’t Suffer For Her Poor Judgement.’ “A woman chooses whether or take the risk of getting pregnant, and the baby shouldn't suffer for her poor judgment. There are many people who would want to adopt a baby, so those who do not want their child have an option in adoption.” [Web Archive, accessed [6/4/00](#)]

Bragdon Authored Another Article Where He Characterized Welfare As “Expensive,” “Addictive,” “Victimizing” And Suggested That Safety New Programs Should Be Limited To Able-Bodied Citizens For One Year

Bragdon Wrote An Article Claiming That Welfare Is Causing Immorality, Encourages Drugs And Crime And Should Be Limited To Abled-Bibided Citizens For One Year

Bragdon Wrote That Welfare Has Caused Immorality And Has A Deteriorating Effect On Society. “Welfare was created to help people who have had a rough time get back on their feet. Instead, it is causing immorality, making people dependent on the government for support, and costing honest, hard-working taxpayers billions of dollars per year. Our welfare system has a deteriorating effect on society and must be reformed.” [Web Archive, [6/6/00](#)]

Bragdon Compared The United States’ Welfare System To His Government Class Where Students Became Dependent On The Curve When Taking Tests And Therefore Studied Less.. “Our welfare system reminds me of my government class. At the beginning of the year government class started out as usual and we all had to work hard and study to achieve good grades. After a while, our teacher gave us a curve on one of our tests that we had all done poorly on. Not long after that, every test had a curve. The class realized they could study less and receive the same grades as they were getting before. Gradually the students became dependent on the curve. Like welfare, my government class curve was designed at a time when we were all doing badly. It was supposed to help us make it by until we could continue on without using it; and like our welfare system, each of us became dependent on a curve that none of us really needed.” [Web Archive, [6/6/00](#)]

Bragdon Wrote Welfare's "Addictive Nature" Was One Of Its Most Devastating Qualities. "One of the most devastating qualities of welfare is its addictive nature. Once people are on it, they become dependent upon it." [Web Archive, [6/6/00](#)]

Bragdon Wrote That Welfare Encourages Drugs And Crime. "On a different but equally disastrous level, welfare encourages drugs, and crime." [Web Archive, [6/6/00](#)]

- **According To A Study From The London School Of Economics And Political Science, Removing Welfare Support Could Motivate People To Commit Crime To Make Up For Lost Income.** "In recent decades, many governments have attempted to encourage people into work by reducing welfare eligibility. By analyzing the changes in the American Supplemental Security Income program (SSI) policies, Manasi Deshpande and Michael Mueller-Smith find that rather than incentivizing people into employment, removing welfare support instead may push them towards illicit activities to make up for lost income. This increase in criminal activity and subsequent incarceration has large monetary and social costs for society, which effectively cancel out the savings to government from reduced welfare spending." [London School of Economics and Political Science, [8/9/22](#)]

Bragdon Wrote That He Believes That Welfare Should Be Limited To One Year For Able-Bodied Citizens. "Now, I'm not saying that we should starve everyone who cannot make a living. Our country should have a safety net, but it should only be a safety net, not a hammock to lie on indefinitely. The solution to welfare is limit all welfare for able-bodied citizens to 1 year. This will give them plenty of time to recover and get a job but not nearly enough time to make a lifestyle out of welfare." [Web Archive, [6/6/00](#)]

Bragdon Wrote That He Believes The Welfare System Is Expensive, Addictive, And Victimizing. "Our present system of welfare is expensive, addictive, and victimizing. It keeps people on it in poverty and costs working Americans money in taxes." [Web Archive, [6/6/00](#)]

In The Same Year That Bragdon Wrote The Article, The Clinton Administration Released A Report That Concluded That Approximately A Third Of Adults Were On Welfare

About 33% Of Working Adults Were On Welfare In 1999. "The national percentage of adults still on welfare who were working reached a record 33 percent in 1999, nearly five times more than in 1992." [Clinton White House, accessed [12/16/00](#)]

According To A 2023 Report Published By The Department Of Health And Human Services, Almost 100 Million Americans (30% Of The Population) Received Some Form Of Government Assistance

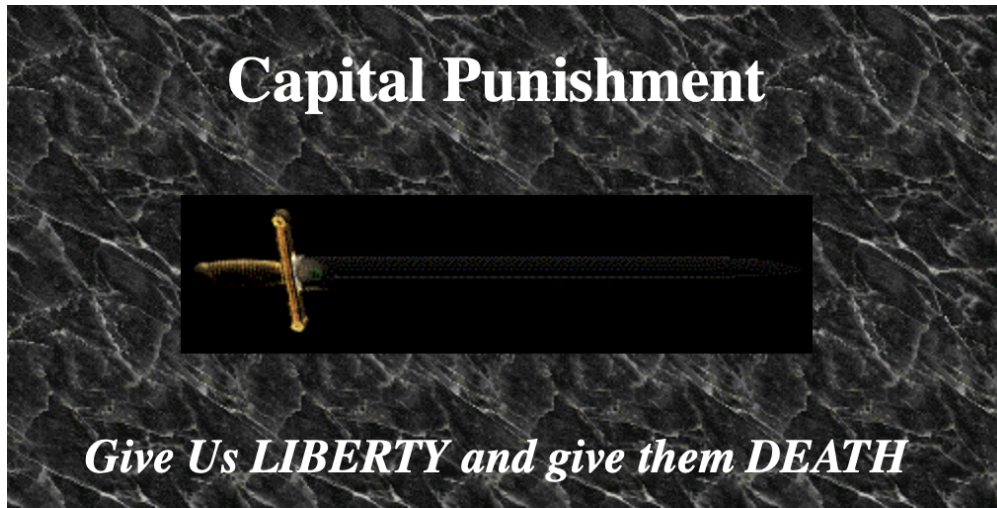
In 2019, Approximately 99.1 Million People Participated In One Of The 10 Welfare Programs. "In 2019, 99.1 million people participated in one of the 10 programs discussed in this brief, representing 30 percent of the U.S. population." [Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, [1/20/23](#)]

More Than One In Four Working-Age Adults And Nearly Half Of Children Received Government Assistance. "More than one in four working-age adults (27 percent) and nearly one of every two children (49 percent) participated in a safety net program." [Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, [1/20/23](#)]

In Recent Years, One In Six People And One In Three Children Participated In Multiple Safety Programs. "One in six people (16 percent) and one in three children (33 percent) participated in multiple safety net programs." [Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, [1/20/23](#)]

In Other Articles, Bragdon Advocated For The Death Penalty To Be Used More

An Article On “Capital Punishment” Authored By Bragdon, Included A Picture Of A Sword And The Phrase “Give Us Liberty And Give Them Death,” A Play On Patrick Henry’s Quotation, “Give Me Liberty Or Give Me Death!”



[Web Archive, [6/5/25](#)]

Bragdon Argued That Opponents Of The Death Penalty Ignore Murder Victims While Focusing On Protecting Convicted Murderers. “Thousands of people will attack the death penalty. They will give emotional speeches about the one innocent man or woman who might be executed. However, all of these people are forgetting one crucial element. They are forgetting the thousands of victims who die every year. The death penalty saves lives. It saves lives because it stops those who murder from ever murdering again. It also deters potential murderers from ever committing the crime. Why are we so afraid to use it.” [Web Archive, [6/5/00](#)]

Bragdon Called For The More Frequent Use Of The Death Penalty, Claiming The Current Application Is Too Rare To Be Effective. “Unfortunately, the death penalty is used so rarely currently that it isn’t nearly as effective as it could be. Take a look at some detailed statistics about the death penalty. In order for it to work, we must put it into practice more often. See some ideas for improving the effectiveness of the death penalty.” [Web Archive, [6/5/00](#)]

Bragdon Said That The Death Penalty Is “Good And Serves A Definite Purpose.” “The death penalty is good and serves a definite purpose. However in order to serve its purpose it must be adjusted and made more effective and efficient. These two bills have a uniform standard for deciding who receives the death penalty, they keep the death penalty decided by the jury, ensure that the death penalty meets constitutional requirements, make the death penalty the standard punishment for murder, and help the death penalty to truly deter crime.” [Web Archive, [6/5/00](#)]

Bragdon Compared Implementing Capital Punishment To The American Revolutionary War, Calling It A Fight To “Protect Our Freedom.” “In conclusion, my study shows that there is a relationship between the number and frequency of executions and the change in the murder rate. This relationship may be causal, but more research is required to say anything with certainty. However, I do feel that there is enough of a logical link between the death penalty and deterrence to call for an increased use of the death penalty. When George Washington and the continental soldiers were fighting in the Revolutionary War, it would have sounded strange to ask them if they enjoyed killing people and if they took pleasure in seeing their friends die. George Washington didn’t want people to die, but he knew that war was the only way freedom could survive. This is an issue about protecting our freedom to live. By implementing capital punishment more seriously, we are fighting the war to protect our freedom, instead of throwing down our weapons and saying that Capital Punishment is inhumane.” [Web Archive, [6/5/00](#)]

While Most States That Have The Death Penalty Requires A Unanimous Jury To Sentence A Capital Defendant To Death, Bragdon Suggested Sentencing Someone To Death Should Be Changed To Where Only 9 Out Of The 12 Jurors Need To Agree To Enact The Death Penalty

Nearly All 27 States That Have The Death Penalty Require A Unanimous Jury To Recommend A Death Sentence To A Defendant. “Nearly all 27 states that have the death penalty require a unanimous jury to recommend or sentence a capital defendant to death. Currently, the only exception is Alabama, where a judge can impose a death sentence if 10 of 12 jurors recommend it.” [CNN, [4/2/23](#)]

Bragdon Proposed Lowering The Jury Requirement For Death Sentences From Unanimous To Only 9 Of 12 Jurors. “Under our current death penalty statutes, all twelve jurors have to concur on the punishment. If a single jury member disagrees with the other eleven, the murderer is automatically issued a sentence of life imprisonment. We live in a world of many different ideologies, thoughts, and philosophies. If one person out of a group of twelve can stop the death penalty from happening, the death penalty will never be the standard punishment for murder. Under Section (b), my bill provides that only nine of the twelve jurors must issue the punishment. If nine jurors (three-fourths) agree that the person deserves to die, he deserves to die. In addition, if nine of the jurors cannot agree on a sentence, the judge shall decide the sentence as he deems fit. However, in most cases nine of the twelve jurors would be able to come to a decision themselves.” [Web Archive, [6/5/00](#)]

- **April 2023: Florida Governor Ron DeSantis Signed A Bill That Reduced The Number Of Jurors Needed To Recommend A Death Sentence From 12 To 8.** “Florida’s Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a bill Thursday that will no longer require juries agree unanimously to recommend death sentences, reducing the number of jurors need to recommend a death sentence to the lowest threshold of any state with capital punishment. SB 450 reduces the number of jurors needed to recommend a death sentence from 12 to 8.” [CNN, [4/2/23](#)]

Based On Another Article, Bragdon May Potentially Allow Partisan Gerrymandering Considering He Suggested That It Is Just “A Part Of The Political Process,” But Simultaneously Indicated That Racial Gerrymandering—Which Ensures Political Power For Black Americans—Could Be Harmful

In Another Article, Bragdon Wrote That Gerrymandering Is “Part Of The Political Process” And Should Not Be Heavily Regulated, But Claimed That Race-Oriented Districts “Strengthens Segregation” And “Reduces Minority Voting Power”

Bragdon Argued That Partisan Gerrymandering Is Part Of The “Political Process” And Appeared To Suggest That Courts Should Not Heavily Regulate It. “Partisan gerrymandering has been a part of the political process for quite some time. Not until recently has the court gotten involved. In 1986, under Davis vs. Bandemer, the supreme court agreed to hear partisan gerrymandering cases (Cook 2788). However, it is difficult to prove that gerrymandering has occurred. According to Jeffrey M. Wice, ‘The kind of proof that you have to show is that the political party has been wiped off the face of the state’s politics’ (Cook 2788). For the most part, partisan redistricting is a political matter to which the court has imposed few limits.” [Web Archive, [6/5/00](#)]

Bragdon Described The Historical Methods Of Gerrymandering, Including How “Splintering” Was Used To “Dilute The Black Vote In Southern States” Before The Voting Rights Act Of 1965. “Partisan gerrymandering almost always plays some part in the political process. There are two main ways to gerrymander, splintering and packing. Splintering is separating a group of people into several districts, so as to dilute the influence they have (Dye 168). This method was often used to dilute the black vote in southern states

before the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Packing is concentrating a large number of people of a certain group into one district, so that that political party will win by a large margin in that district but lose by a small margin in other districts (Dye 168).” [Web Archive, [6/5/00](#)]

Bragdon Argued That “Race Oriented Districts Strengthen Segregation” And Reduces Overall Minority Political Influence. “Race oriented districts strengthen segregation and lead to less minority influence overall.” [Web Archive, [6/5/00](#)]

- **Majority-Minority Districts Are Created To Comply With The Voting Rights Act Of 1965 And Prevent Dilution Of Minority Voting Strength.** “A majority-minority district is a district in which a racial minority group or groups comprise a majority of the district's total population. Using data provided in the United States Census Bureau's 2023 American Community Survey estimates and based on districts enacted after the 2020 census, there were 141 U.S. House majority-minority districts. This represented approximately 32% of the nation's 435 U.S. House districts. States may create majority-minority districts in order to prevent the dilution of minorities’ voting strength in compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act mandates that no ‘standard, practice, or procedure shall be imposed or applied by any State or political subdivision to deny or abridge the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color.” [Ballotpedia, accessed [9/12/25](#)]

Bragdon Argued That Courts Place “Too Much Emphasis” On “Unimportant Factors” In Redistricting, Such As Racial Considerations, Which He Claims Are “Causing The Very Problems” They're Meant To Prevent. “Redistricting is a political process that must satisfy many demands. In many cases too much emphasis is placed on unimportant factors. In equal population, the supreme court demands almost exact standards, standards that are flawed for a couple of reasons. The census is not perfect, and districts are based on total population, not voting age population which would make more sense. Racial gerrymandering is another factor that takes too much precedence. In many ways racial gerrymandering is causing the very problems that it is trying to prevent, weakening of black influence and discrimination.” [Web Archive, [6/5/00](#)]

Bragdon Argued That Claims About Unfair Representation Through Partisan Gerrymandering Are Based On Questionable Assumptions About Voter Behavior. “Partisan gerrymandering has far less certain effects than the opinion of reformers may indicate. The claim that a group has been denied fair representation only makes sense under some assumptions. ‘First, that the group in question meets some criteria of cohesion and durability from election to election, that is, the group is identifiable; second, that the group in question is durable and cohesive and the group's size and representational entitlement are measurable; and third, that the voters are party voters.” [Web Archive, [6/5/00](#)]

In 2023, North Carolina Republicans Pushed For An "Aggressive" Gerrymandered Congressional Map That Helped Them Flip Seats In Congress

October 2023: Republicans Pushed Through An "Aggressive" Gerrymander Of North Carolina's Congressional Map That Would Have Helped Them Flip Several Seats In Congress. “Republicans have pushed through an aggressive gerrymander of North Carolina's congressional map that will help them flip several seats in Congress. Those looming GOP pickups will bolster the party's chances of defending their narrow House majority next year by erasing or even surpassing Republican losses elsewhere in the South, where courts have begun tossing out congressional lines for diluting the power of Black voters.” [Politico, [10/25/23](#)]

- **The New Congressional Map Packed As Many Democratic Voters As Possible Into Three Blue Districts, While Distributing Republicans Across The Remaining Districts.** “The map packs as many Democratic voters as possible into three blue districts, while distributing Republicans across the remaining districts to make sure they remain largely out of reach for Democrats. The maps were drawn so Republicans would hold a strong majority of the state's seats even in particularly bad years for the GOP.” [Politico, [10/25/23](#)]

- **October 2023: North Carolina's New Congressional District Map Was Approved By The State's Legislature.** "North Carolina's new map, which was approved Wednesday by the state legislature, is particularly efficient at securing a GOP advantage in a state that's closely divided for many statewide races — setting off a scramble among Republicans for the opportunity to run in the newly safe seats." [Politico, [10/25/23](#)]

December 2023: Elias Law Group Attorneys Representing A Group Of Minority Voters In North Carolina Filed A Lawsuit Challenging The State's Congressional Map, Claiming That It Entrenches The State's White Majority By Drawing FOur Racially Gerrymandered Districts That Decreased Minority Voting Power. "On December 4, Elias Law Group attorneys representing a group of minority voters in North Carolina filed a lawsuit challenging the state's newly-enacted congressional map. The lawsuit alleges that North Carolina's new congressional map entrenches the state's white majority by drawing four racially gerrymandered congressional districts and intentionally decreasing minority voting power." [Elias Law Group, [12/4/25](#)]

As Of September 15, 2025: The Case, Which Was Consolidated With Another Case, Was Ongoing. "On March 18, 2024, this case was consolidated with North Carolina State Conference of the NAACP v. Berger , with this case designated as the lead. On April 8, 2025, a three judge panel ruled in favor of legislative defendants on the NAACP's malapportionment claims and other claims. STATUS: The district court heard arguments in June and July of 2025, but has yet to issue its ruling." [Democracy Docket, accessed [9/15/25](#)]

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