

# **Ginni Thomas' Longstanding Ties To Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton Pose Major Conflict Of Interest For Justice Thomas In *Bost v. Illinois State Board Of Elections***

**SUMMARY:** Ginni Thomas' political activism once again presents a major conflict of interest that should see her husband recuse from *Bost v. Illinois State Board of Elections*, a [major election law case](#) in the 2025-2026 term that was [brought by](#) parties represented by Judicial Watch, a right-wing election lawfare group she has long worked hand in hand with.

Ginni Thomas' ties to Judicial Watch go back to [at least 2013](#), when Judicial Watch began hosting meetings for a coalition of right-wing activists known as Third Century Group (F.K.A. Groundswell). [Emails obtained by American Oversight show](#) that Thomas has played a prominent role in the coalition, where she, Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton, and others met weekly in Judicial Watch's offices in Washington, DC.

Thomas and Fitton also worked closely as members of the board of [CNP Action](#), the political advocacy arm of the Council for National Policy, another right-wing group that functions as a [networking hub](#) for prominent conservatives.

In [Bost](#), the case litigated by Judicial Watch, the Supreme Court [will rule on](#) a question of standing pertaining to an Illinois law that allows mail-in ballots to be counted after election day.

Should Justice Thomas participate in *Bost*, it will join a [long list](#) of cases in which he has neglected recusal despite conflicts presented by his wife's activism, including but not limited to *Bush v. Gore*, *Citizens United v. FEC*, *NFIB v. Sibelius*, and *Trump v. Anderson*. The Supreme Court's [code of conduct](#), which is nonbinding, calls on justices to recuse in instances "in which the justice's impartiality might reasonably be questioned" and states that justices should avoid "the appearance of impropriety at all times."

**In Its 2025-2026 Term, SCOTUS Will Weigh On *Bost v. Illinois State Board Of Elections*, A Mail-In Ballot Case In Which Plaintiffs Are Represented By Right-Wing Election Lawfare Group Judicial Watch.**

**In October 2025, The U.S. Supreme Court Will Hear Oral Arguments In *Bost v. Illinois State Board Of Elections*, A Major Voting Rights Case.**

**In Its 2025-2025 Term, The U.S. Supreme Court Will Hear *Bost v. Illinois State Board Of Elections*.**

**24-568 BOST V. ILLINOIS BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

DECISION BELOW: 114 F.4th 634

LOWER COURT CASE NUMBER: 23-2644

QUESTION PRESENTED:

Federal law sets the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November as the federal Election Day. 2 U.S.C. §§ 1 and 7; and 3 U.S.C. § 1. Several states, including Illinois, have enacted state laws that allow ballots to be received and counted after Election Day. Petitioners contend these state laws are preempted under the Elections and Electors Clauses. Petitioners sued to enjoin Illinois' law allowing ballots to be received up to fourteen days after Election Day.

The sole question presented here is whether Petitioners, as federal candidates, have pleaded sufficient factual allegations to show Article III standing to challenge state time, place, and manner regulations concerning their federal elections.

CERT. GRANTED 6/2/2025

[Supreme Court of the United States, question presented report, [6/2/25](#)]

***Bost* Concerns A Challenge To An Illinois Election Law That Allows Mail-In ballots To Be Counted Up To 14 Days After The Election.** “The Supreme Court announced on Monday that it would hear a case brought by a conservative congressman who had challenged an Illinois election law that allows mail-in ballots to be counted up to 14 days after an election. Representative Mike Bost, a Republican who represents a district in downstate Illinois, along with two federal electors, sued the Illinois State Board of Elections in 2022. They argue that the state’s law violates federal statutes establishing an Election Day because it allows absentee ballots to be received and counted after the election.” [The New York Times, [6/2/25](#)]

***In Bost*, SCOTUS Will Rule On “Whether Petitioners, As Federal Candidates, Have Pleaded Sufficient Factual Allegations To Show Article III Standing To Challenge State Time, Place, And Manner Regulations Concerning Their Federal Elections.”** “The sole question presented here is whether Petitioners, as federal candidates, have pleaded sufficient factual allegations to show Article III standing to challenge state time, place, and manner regulations concerning their federal elections.” [Supreme Court of the United States, question presented report, [6/2/25](#)]

***Bost* Was Brought By Plaintiffs Represented By Judicial Watch, A Right-Wing Election Lawfare Group.**

***Bost* Was Brought By Illinois Rep. Mike Bost And Two Federal Electors.** “The Supreme Court announced on Monday that it would hear a case brought by a conservative congressman who had challenged an Illinois election law that allows mail-in ballots to be counted up to 14 days after an election. Representative Mike Bost, a Republican who represents a district in downstate Illinois, along with two federal electors, sued the Illinois State Board of Elections in 2022. They argue that the state’s law violates federal statutes establishing an Election Day because it allows absentee ballots to be received and counted after the election.” [The New York Times, [6/2/25](#)]

***In Bost*, Mike Bost Is Represented By Judicial Watch.**

T. Russell Nobile

Judicial Watch, Inc.

P.O. Box 6592

Gulfport, Mississippi, MS 39506

Rnobile@judicialwatch.org

Ph: (202) 527-9866

Party name: Michael Bost, et al.

[Supreme Court of the United States, accessed [8/25/25](#)]

**Judicial Watch Formed In 1994 To File Politically Damaging FOIA Requests And Lawsuits Against The Clinton Administration.** “Judicial Watch was one of the Clintons’ original tormentors, a charter member of what Mrs. Clinton famously called a ‘vast right-wing conspiracy’ to destroy her and her husband by seizing on any potential scandal. The organization filed its first lawsuit against the Clintons shortly after its formation in 1994, and it pretty much never stopped. It is currently the plaintiff in more than 20 suits involving Mrs. Clinton, the Democratic presidential nominee.” [The New York Times, [10/13/16](#)]

**Today, Judicial Watch Is “A Right-Wing Legal Group” That Files “All Manner Of Litigation Against The Government—[FOIA] Lawsuits, Challenges To Immigration Policy, Attempts To Thwart Environmental Actions And Any Other Issue That Riles Up Republicans.”** “Fitton leads Judicial Watch, a self-described “conservative, non-partisan educational foundation, which promotes transparency, accountability and integrity in government, politics and the law.” What that translates to in practice is, essentially, a right-wing legal group that’s constantly filing all manner of litigation against the government — Freedom of Information Act lawsuits, challenges to immigration policy, attempts to thwart environmental actions and any other issue that riles up Republicans.” [Democracy Docket, [6/11/24](#)]

- **Judicial Watch’s Strategy Is To “Carpet-Bomb The Federal Courts With Freedom Of Information Act Lawsuits.”** “Judicial Watch’s strategy is simple: Carpet-bomb the federal courts with Freedom of Information Act lawsuits.” [The New York Times, [10/13/16](#)]
- **Judicial Watch Has Filed Numerous Lawsuits In Recent Years Seeking To Purge Voter Rolls And Suppress Votes In Battleground States.** “Since the Trump era, however, Fitton and his organization have amplified their efforts on attacking voting rights, filing a myriad of lawsuits across the country in an attempt to purge voter rolls and roil the elections process in a handful of battleground states.” [Democracy Docket, [6/11/24](#)]

**Clarence Thomas’ Wife, Virginia “Ginni” Thomas, Is A Noted Conservative Activist Whose Political Activities And Connections Have Long Raised Questions Of Her Husband’s Impartiality In High-Profile Cases.**

### **Clarence And Ginni Thomas Married In 1987.**

**Clarence And Ginni Thomas Have Been Married Since 1987.** “Conservative political activist Virginia Thomas told her husband Justice Clarence Thomas’s former law clerks that she was sorry for a rift that developed among them after her election advocacy of President Donald Trump and endorsement of the Jan. 6 rally in D.C. that resulted in violence and death at the Capitol... But she was active in conservative causes before she met Clarence Thomas, and they married in 1987, before he was on the bench, first on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and then the Supreme Court.” [The Washington Post, [2/2/21](#)]

**The Supreme Court Code Of Conduct States That Justices Should Recuse From Cases In Which Their Impartiality “Might Reasonably Be Questioned” So As To “Avoid Impropriety And The Appearance Of Impropriety In All Activities.”**

**Supreme Court Code Of Conduct: “A Justice Should Avoid Impropriety And The Appearance Of Impropriety In All Activities.”** “CANON 2: A JUSTICE SHOULD AVOID IMPROPRIETY AND THE APPEARANCE OF IMPROPRIETY IN ALL ACTIVITIES.” [Supreme Court of the United States, [11/13/23](#)]

**Supreme Court Code Of Conduct: “A Justice Should Disqualify Himself Or Herself In A Proceeding In Which The Justice’s Impartiality Might Reasonably Be Questioned.”** “A Justice should disqualify himself or herself in a proceeding in which the Justice’s impartiality might reasonably be questioned, that is, where an unbiased and reasonable person who is aware of all relevant circumstances would doubt that the Justice could fairly discharge his or her duties.” [Supreme Court of the United States, [11/13/23](#)]

## **2000: Justice Thomas Neglected To Recuse From *Bush v. Gore* Despite Ginni's Participation In Efforts To Prepare For A Potential Bush Administration.**

**2000: Justice Thomas Faced Calls To Recuse From *Bush v. Gore* Because Ginni Was Known To Have Been Collecting Resumes For A Possible Bush Administration.** “In December 2000, while Justice Clarence Thomas was preparing to hear arguments in *Bush v. Gore*, his wife Ginni was collecting resumes for a possible Bush administration. Given the perceived conflict – Ginni and her colleagues stood to gain should Bush prevail before the justices, Thomas was asked to recuse.” [Fix the Court, [11/17/14](#)]

**Justice Thomas Did Not Recuse In *Bush v. Gore*, And Instead Constituted Part Of The Narrow 5-4 Ruling Majority.** “In December 2000, while Justice Clarence Thomas was preparing to hear arguments in *Bush v. Gore*... Justice Thomas recused himself in neither case and came out on the winning side of a 5-4 decision in the former case and the losing side in the latter.” [Fix the Court, [11/17/14](#)]

## **Just Months Before The *Citizens United* Ruling, Ginni Thomas Created A Nonprofit That Stood To Benefit From The Decision Her Husband Partook In.**

**In 2009, Two Months Before The *Citizens United* Ruling, Clarence Thomas's Wife Ginni Thomas Created A Nonprofit That Stood To Benefit From The Decision.** “Two months before the *Citizens United* decision, but after the justices had signaled their intentions by requesting new arguments, attorney Cleta Mitchell — later to play a role in Donald Trump's false claims about the 2020 elections — filed papers for Ginni Thomas to create a nonprofit group of a type that ultimately benefited from the decision.” [Politico, [9/10/23](#)]

- **The Nonprofit, Liberty Central, Was Incorporated In 2009 With \$500,000 In Seed Funding From Billionaire Harlan Crow.** “A nonprofit, Liberty Central, was incorporated with \$500,000 from Crow on 31 December 2009, three and a half months after the close of oral arguments in *Citizens United*.” [The Guardian, [9/11/23](#)]
- **Leonard Leo Was Listed As A Director In The Application Filed By The Nonprofit, Liberty Central.** “Two months before the *Citizens United* decision, but after the justices had signaled their intentions by requesting new arguments, attorney Cleta Mitchell — later to play a role in Donald Trump's false claims about the 2020 elections — filed papers for Ginni Thomas to create a nonprofit group of a type that ultimately benefited from the decision. Leo was one of two directors listed on a separate application to conduct business in the state of Virginia. Thomas was president. She signed it on New Year's Eve of 2009, and Crow provided much of the initial cash. A key Leo aide, Sarah Field, would come aboard to help Thomas manage the group, which they called Liberty Central.” [Politico, [9/10/23](#)]
- **Liberty Central Had A Short Lifespan, During Which It Sparked Controversy For Its Campaign Criticizing The Affordable Care Act While The Supreme Court Was Hearing A Challenge To The Law's Constitutionality.** “The group was destined to have only a short lifespan, thanks in part to a misstep by Thomas... The ensuing news reports drew unwanted attention to Thomas' new nonprofit, which by then was expressly targeting Obama and his agenda. The news led many ethics specialists to question whether it was appropriate for a Supreme Court justice's spouse to be leading such a political effort, especially with the court preparing to consider a high-profile challenge to Obama's health care initiative. The following month, it was reported that Thomas was stepping down from her top leadership position at Liberty Central, which was eventually absorbed into another nonprofit.” [Politico, [9/10/23](#)]

**Justice Thomas Was Part Of The Ruling Majority In *Citizens United*.** “Justice Scalia also wrote a separate concurring opinion, joined by Justices Alito and Thomas in part, criticizing Justice Stevens' understanding of the Framers' view towards corporations.” [Oyez, accessed [8/25/25](#)]

## **Justice Thomas Neglected To Recuse From A Decision Concerning The Affordable Care Act's Constitutionality Despite Ginni Running An Advocacy Campaign Against The ACA Through A Nonprofit She Founded.**

### **Ginni Thomas' Nonprofit Liberty Central Ran A Visible Campaign To Attack The Affordable Care Act.**

"After Liberty Central went public, it provoked an outcry over a Supreme Court justice's wife promoting causes like overturning Obamacare that were before her husband's court... Liberty Central had been explicit about its intent to assist 'citizen activists,' launching an 'activism how-to website' in August and an ad campaign a month before the 2010 midterm election in which challenging Obamacare was the conservative movement's primary objective." [Politico, [9/10/23](#)]

### **Justice Thomas Dissented In *NFIB v. Sebelius*, A Case Concerning The ACA's Constitutionality.**

"National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius... As part of a jointly written dissenting opinion, Justices Antonin Scalia, Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, and Samuel Alito disagreed, arguing that because Congress characterized the payment as a penalty, to instead characterize it as a tax would amount to rewriting the Act." [Oyez, accessed [8/25/25](#)]

## **Conservative Activist Leonard Leo, Who Has Cultivated Numerous Personal Ties To The Thomases, Funneled Discreet Payments To Ginni Thomas' Consulting Firm In 2012.**

*According To Associate George Conway, Leo's Role Was To Keep The Court's Conservative Justices "Happy" So That They Didn't Decide To Leave For Financial Reasons.*

**According To Former Conservative Ally George Conway, Part Of Leo's Role Was To "Keep [The Court's Conservative Justices] Happy So They Stay On The Job" And Continue To Deliver Rulings Favorable To The Conservatives Who Installed Them.** "George Conway saw this courtship firsthand. Before he became one of the most prominent "Never Trumpers," Conway had been a veteran of the conservative movement. He served on the Federalist Society Board of Visitors, donated to the group and was briefly considered for a top position in the Trump Justice Department... From his rarefied position, Conway watched Leo become what he called a "den mother" to the justices... Leo saw it as his responsibility, Conway said, to help take care of the judges even after they had made it to the highest court in the country. 'There was always a concern that Scalia or Thomas would say, 'Fuck it,' and quit the job and go make way more money at Jones Day or somewhere else,' Conway said, referring to the powerful conservative law firm. 'Part of what Leonard does is he tries to keep them happy so they stay on the job.'" [ProPublica, [10/11/23](#)]

- **Conway: "There Was Always A Concern That Scalia Or Thomas Would Say, 'Fuck It,' And Quit The Job And Go Make Way More Money At Jones Day Or Somewhere Else. Part Of What Leonard Does Is He Tries To Keep Them Happy So They Stay On The Job."** "There was always a concern that Scalia or Thomas would say, 'Fuck it,' and quit the job and go make way more money at Jones Day or somewhere else,' Conway said, referring to the powerful conservative law firm. 'Part of what Leonard does is he tries to keep them happy so they stay on the job.'" [ProPublica, [10/11/23](#)]
- **George Conway, Former Husband To Kellyann Conway, Is "A Veteran Of The Conservative Movement" Who Served On The Federalist Society Board Of Visitors.** "George Conway saw this courtship firsthand. Before he became one of the most prominent "Never Trumpers," Conway had been a veteran of the conservative movement. He served on the Federalist Society Board of Visitors, donated to the group and was briefly considered for a top position in the Trump Justice Department. His then-wife, Kellyanne Conway, was a prominent pollster who later managed Trump's 2016 presidential campaign." [ProPublica, [10/11/23](#)]
  - **Leo Worked Closely With Kellyanne Conway In The Early 2010s.** "Leo came to the aid of Thomas' wife, Ginni, when she launched her own consulting firm, and he directed Kellyanne Conway in 2012 to pay her at least \$25,000 as a subcontractor, according to The Washington Post." [ProPublica, [10/11/23](#)]

*Justice Thomas Is A Godfather To One Of Leo's Daughters.*

**Justice Thomas Is A Godfather To One Of Leo's Daughters.** "Thomas is a godfather to one of Leo's daughters and keeps a drawing by Margaret in his chambers." [ProPublica, [10/11/23](#)]

*Leo Served Alongside Ginni Thomas On The Board Of Her Nonprofit Liberty Central.*

**Leo Served With Ginni Thomas On The Board Of Her Tea Party Group, Liberty Central.** "In 2010, Leo served on the board of a tea party group called Liberty Central. Ginni Thomas, wife of Justice Clarence Thomas, received \$120,511 as the start-up's president that year. She later stepped down following questions about possible conflicts of interest, saying the issue had become a distraction for the group." [Washington Post, [5/21/19](#)]

**CRC Public Relations—Now Leo's Firm, CRC Advisors—Worked For Thomas' Group, Liberty Central.** "A call to the contact number listed on the Judicial Crisis Network took me to CRC Public Relations. That is the same public relations firm that was employed by Virginia Thomas at Liberty Central. I requested that Wendy Long contact me. No response was received." [Counter Punch, [10/3/11](#)]

- **A CRC Public Relations Spokesperson Spoke To The Washington Post On Behalf Of Ginni Thomas And Liberty Central In 2010.** "Virginia Thomas, political activist and wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, has decided to relinquish control of Liberty Central, the conservative group she founded less than a year ago, so that the organization can escape the "distractions" of her media celebrity, a spokeswoman said. 'She'll take a back seat so that Liberty Central can continue with its mission without any of the distractions,' said spokeswoman Caitlin Carroll of CRC Public Relations in Alexandria. 'After discussing it with the board, Mrs. Thomas determined that it was best for the organization.'" [Washington Post, [11/15/10](#)]

*In 2012, Leo Ordered For Discreet Payments To Be Paid To Ginni Thomas.*

**After Leaving Liberty Central In Early 2011, Ginni Thomas Founded A New Venture Called "Liberty Consulting."** "Liberty Central folded after only a few years, filing tax forms for the last time 2012. Thomas founded a new venture in early 2011, a consulting group called Liberty Consulting, where she billed herself as an ambassador to the newly-elected Tea Party Republicans in Congress." [OpenSecrets, [6/5/19](#)]

- **Leo Associate Neil Corkery Was Liberty Central's Accountant When It Formed In 2009, Registered To A P.O. Box.** "When Virginia Thomas filed her registration statement for her tea party group, Liberty Central, Inc., with the state of West Virginia on December 31, 2009, she listed her accountant as Neil Corkery with an address of 8665 Sudley Road, Suite 182 in Manassas, Virginia. According to a UPS store employee located there, there is no other business located at this site; just post office boxes." [Counter Punch, [10/3/11](#)]
- **Insurrection-Tied Lawyer Cleta Mitchell Filed The Registration Forms For Liberty Central Eight Days After The Citizens United Decision.** "Eight days after the Supreme Court issued its ruling in Citizens United in 2010, Mitchell filed forms for the formation of Ginni Thomas' Liberty Central nonprofit." [Senate Judiciary Testimony, Lisa Graves, [3/10/21](#)]

**Leonard Leo Arranged For Ginni Thomas, Wife Of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, To Be Paid Tens of Thousands Of Dollars in 2012.** "Conservative judicial activist Leonard Leo arranged for the wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas to be paid tens of thousands of dollars for consulting work just over a decade ago, specifying that her name be left off billing paperwork, according to documents reviewed by The Washington Post." [The Washington Post, [5/4/2023](#)]

- **Leo Told Pollster Kellyann Conway To "Give" Ginni Thomas "Another \$25K."** "Leo, a key figure in a network of nonprofits that has worked to support the nominations of conservative judges, told Conway

that he wanted her to 'give' Ginni Thomas 'another \$25K,' the documents show." [The Washington Post, [5/4/2023](#)]

- **Conway's Firm, The Polling Company, Paid Ginni Thomas' Firm Liberty Consulting At Least \$80,000 In 2011 And 2012.** In all, according to the documents, the Polling Company paid Thomas's firm, Liberty Consulting, \$80,000 between June 2011 and June 2012, and it expected to pay \$20,000 more before the end of 2012." [The Washington Post, [5/4/2023](#)]
- **The Day Leo Ordered The Payment, Conway's Firm Sent A \$25,000 Bill To The Judicial Education Network.** "Conway's firm, the Polling Company, sent the Judicial Education Project a \$25,000 bill that day. Per Leo's instructions, it listed the purpose as 'Supplement for Constitution Polling and Opinion Consulting,' the documents show." [The Washington Post, [5/4/2023](#)]
- **The Judicial Education Project Is A Dark Money Group With Close Ties To Leonard Leo.** "Despite appearing to be a free-standing new operation, the Honest Elections Project is just a legal alias for the Judicial Education Project, a well-financed nonprofit connected to a powerful network of dark money conservative groups, according to business records reviewed by the Guardian and OpenSecrets... The Judicial Education Project is also closely linked to Leonard Leo, one of the most powerful people in Washington who has shaped Donald Trump's unprecedented effort to remake the federal judiciary with conservative judges." [The Guardian, [5/27/20](#)]

**Leo Specified That Thomas's Name Be Left Off The Billing Paperwork.** "Leo, a key figure in a network of nonprofits that has worked to support the nominations of conservative judges, told Conway that he wanted her to 'give' Ginni Thomas 'another \$25K,' the documents show. He emphasized that the paperwork should have 'No mention of Ginni, of course.'" [The Washington Post, [5/4/2023](#)]

## **Ginni Thomas Advertised Access To "Any Door In Washington" Through Liberty Consulting, Her Private Consulting Firm.**

**Thomas Launched "Liberty Consulting," A Personal Lobbying And Consultancy Firm, In 2010.** "In 2010, [Ginni Thomas] launched her lobbying firm, Liberty Consulting. Her Web site quotes a client saying that she is able to "give access to any door in Washington." [The New Yorker, [1/21/22](#)]

**Liberty Consulting's Website Quoted A Client As Stating That Thomas Can "Give Access To Any Door In Washington."** "Ginni Thomas had wanted to run for Congress, but once her husband was on the Supreme Court she reportedly felt professionally stuck. She moved through various jobs, including one at the Heritage Foundation, the conservative think tank. In 2010, she launched her lobbying firm, Liberty Consulting. Her Web site quotes a client saying that she is able to "give access to any door in Washington." [The New Yorker, [1/21/22](#)]

## **Justice Thomas Did Not Recuse Himself From *Trump v. Anderson*, A Case Concerning Whether Trump's Role In The Jan. 6 Insurrection Could Keep Him Off 2024 Ballots, Despite Ginni's Part In Efforts To Overturn The 2020 Election.**

*Trump v. Anderson Concerned Whether Trump Could Be Lawfully Excluded From 2024 Ballots For His Role In Inciting The January 6 Insurrection.*

**January 6, 2021: A Mob Waving Trump Banners And Confederate Flags Breached The U.S. Capitol Building In An Attempt To Overturn The Results Of The 2020 U.S. General Election And Reinstall Lame Duck President Donald Trump.** "The Capitol building of the United States was breached yesterday by a mob seeking to overturn the results of the 2020 election at a sitting president's behest. Waving Trump banners and Confederate flags, it forced the evacuation of the building and temporarily delayed the timely ceremonial counting of the electoral votes." [The Atlantic, [1/7/21](#)]

- **The Mob Formed At A Trump Rally The Former President Organized.** “The immediate catalyst for the assault on the Capitol was the president himself. After addressing thousands of his supporters who had come to protest the results of the election, Donald Trump called his defeat an ‘egregious assault on our democracy,’ urging the crowd to ‘walk down to the Capitol.’” [The Atlantic, [1/7/21](#)]
- **At The Rally, Trump Made Statements That Some Have Interpreted As Inciting The Mob’s Attack On The Capitol.** “The immediate catalyst for the assault on the Capitol was the president himself. After addressing thousands of his supporters who had come to protest the results of the election, Donald Trump called his defeat an ‘egregious assault on our democracy,’ urging the crowd to ‘walk down to the Capitol...’” [The Atlantic, [1/7/21](#)]
- **The Former President, For Instance, Called His Defeat An “Egregious Assault On Our Democracy” And Urged The Crowd To “Walk Down To The Capitol,” Stating, “We Are Going To Cheer On Our Brave Senators And Congressmen And -Women, And We Are Probably Not Going To Be Cheering So Much For Some Of Them. Because You Will Never Take Back Our Country With Weakness.”** “After addressing thousands of his supporters who had come to protest the results of the election, Donald Trump called his defeat an ‘egregious assault on our democracy,’ urging the crowd to ‘walk down to the Capitol. We are going to cheer on our brave senators and congressmen and -women, and we are probably not going to be cheering so much for some of them. Because you will never take back our country with weakness.’” [The Atlantic, [1/7/21](#)]

**2023: A Group Of Colorado Republican And Independent Voters Filed A Lawsuit Arguing That The Fourteenth Amendment’s Disqualification Clause, Also Known As The Insurrection Clause, Prevented Donald Trump From Appearing On The State’s Primary Ballot.** “A group of registered Republicans and unaffiliated voters eligible to vote in Colorado’s presidential primary filed the lawsuit last year. They argued that Trump should not be included on the state’s primary ballot because as president he had sworn an oath to support the Constitution but had engaged in insurrection on Jan. 6.” [SCOTUSblog, [1/5/24](#)]

- **The Lawsuit Alleged That Trump’s Statements Asking Supporters To March On The U.S. Capitol Was An Incitement To Overturn The Results Of The 2020 Presidential Election, Which Was Itself An Alleged Act Of Insurrection Against The U.S. Constitution.** “A group of registered Republicans and unaffiliated voters eligible to vote in Colorado’s presidential primary filed the lawsuit last year. They argued that Trump should not be included on the state’s primary ballot because as president he had sworn an oath to support the Constitution but had engaged in insurrection on Jan. 6. They pointed to Trump’s false allegations of election fraud, as well as his statements at a speech on the Ellipse urging his supporters to march to the Capitol and fight there to prevent Congress from certifying the results of the 2020 presidential election.” [SCOTUSblog, [1/5/24](#)]
- **December 2023: The Colorado Supreme Court Ruled That Trump Was Not Eligible To Appear On The Ballot, Reversing A Trial Court Ruling That Had Found That The Presidency Was Not An “Office” And Therefore Trump Had Not Violated The 14th Amendment.** “A state trial court agreed that Trump engaged in insurrection but concluded that Section 3 does not apply to the president because the presidency is not an ‘office ... under the United States’ and the president is not an ‘officer of the United States.’ The challengers appealed to the Colorado Supreme Court, which reversed in a ruling last month. It held that Trump was disqualified under Section 3 from serving as president and it barred the Colorado secretary of state from listing him on the primary ballot.” [SCOTUSblog, [1/5/24](#)]
- **The Lawsuit Reached The Supreme Court As *Trump v. Anderson*.** “*Trump v. Anderson*... Issue: Whether the Colorado Supreme Court erred in ordering former President Donald Trump excluded from the 2024 presidential primary ballot.” [SCOTUSblog, accessed [8/25/25](#)]

*Joining Members Of The Trump Administration, Ginni Thomas Partook In Efforts To Push State Electors To Overturn The 2020 Election.*

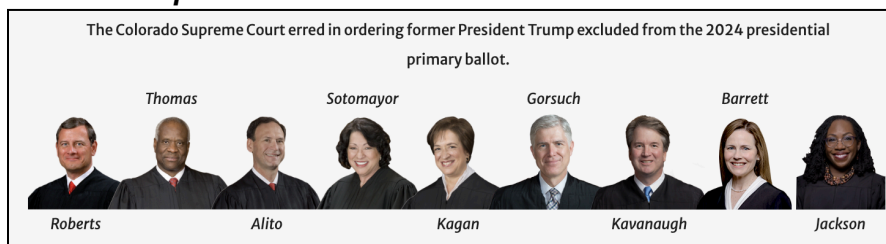
**Ginni Thomas Pursued Efforts To Help Overturn The 2020 Election Results To Keep Then-President Trump In Office.** “Thomas, the wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, has a long track record in

conservative activism. Over the years, that activism has veered more into the controversial. It took an especially dramatic turn in the weeks following former President Trump's re-election loss when Thomas was in touch with Trump's then-top White House aide to actively pursue overturning the results.” [NPR, [9/30/22](#)]

- **In 2020, Ginni Thomas Notably Pressured Mark Meadows, Trump’s Then-Chief Of Staff, To Pursue Efforts To Overturn The Presidential Election And Urged Electors In Swing States Joe Biden Had Won To Cast “Faithless” Votes For Trump.** “In 2020, [Ginni Thomas] privately pressed White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows to pursue efforts to overturn the presidential election, and she sent emails urging swing-state lawmakers to set aside Joe Biden’s popular-vote victory in awarding electoral votes.” [The Washington Post, [3/28/23](#)]
- **In Leaked Texts, Thomas Told Meadows That The 2020 Election Results Were “Obvious Fraud” And That It Was Time To “Release The Kraken And Save Us From The Left Taking America Down.”** “On March 24th, the Washington Post and CBS News revealed that they had obtained copies of twenty-nine text messages between Ginni Thomas and Mark Meadows, the Trump White House chief of staff, in which she militated relentlessly for invalidating the results of the Presidential election, which she described as an ‘obvious fraud.’ It was necessary, she told Meadows, to ‘release the Kraken and save us from the left taking America down.’” [The New Yorker, [3/25/22](#)]

*Justice Thomas Ruled In Trump v. Anderson Despite His Wife’s Role In The Attempt To Lawlessly Keep Trump In Power.*

**Justice Thomas Ruled On *Trump v. Anderson*.**



[Oyez, accessed [8/25/25](#)]

**Ginni Thomas Has Well-Documented Personal Ties To Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton Which Make It Impossible For Her Husband To Rule On *Bost* Without An Appearance Of Impropriety.**

**Since 2013, Thomas And Fitton Have Worked Together—Meeting Weekly At Judicial Watch’s Offices—As Part Of “Third Century Group” (F.K.A. Groundswell), A Coalition Of Prominent Right-Wing Activists.**

The Third Century Group (TCG), Formerly Known As Groundswell, Is A Strategy Coalition Of Prominent Right-Wing Activists Formed To Wage “A 30 Front War Seeking To Fundamentally Transform The Nation.” “Believing they are losing the messaging war with progressives, a group of prominent conservatives in Washington—including the wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and journalists from Breitbart News and the Washington Examiner—has been meeting privately since early this year to concoct talking points, coordinate messaging, and hatch plans for ‘a 30 front war seeking to fundamentally transform the nation,’ according to documents obtained by Mother Jones. Dubbed Groundswell, this coalition convenes weekly in the offices of Judicial Watch, the conservative legal watchdog group.” [Mother Jones, [7/25/13](#)]

- **Groundswell Was Formed In 2013.** “Believing they are losing the messaging war with progressives, a group of prominent conservatives in Washington—including the wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and journalists from Breitbart News and the Washington Examiner—has been meeting privately since early this year to concoct talking points, coordinate messaging, and hatch plans

for ‘a 30 front war seeking to fundamentally transform the nation,’ according to documents obtained by Mother Jones.” [Mother Jones, [7/25/13](#)]

- **Groundswell Rebranded As Third Century Group (TCG).** “Ginni Thomas said the ‘cone of silence coalition’ of ‘about 83 national leaders’ was formerly known as Groundswell and included former White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows among its attendees. The group, now called the Third Century Group (TC Group), was focused on ‘the greatest threats and opportunities to constitutional governance,’ Thomas wrote in her email, ‘and admittedly we are weary about the GOP divisions, lack of courage and lack of leadership.’” [American Oversight, [3/8/22](#)]

**Ginni Thomas And Tom Fitton Both Participated In TCG’s Weekly Meetings, Which Were Held In Judicial Watch’s Offices.** “Dubbed Groundswell, this coalition convenes weekly in the offices of Judicial Watch, the conservative legal watchdog group... One of the influential conservatives guiding the group is Virginia “Ginni” Thomas, a columnist for the Daily Caller and a tea party consultant and lobbyist. Other Groundswell members include... Tom Fitton, the president of Judicial Watch...” [Mother Jones, [7/25/13](#)]

- **Judicial Watch Continued To Host TCG’s Meetings Through At Least 2022.** “Ginni Thomas said the ‘cone of silence coalition’ of ‘about 83 national leaders’ was formerly known as Groundswell and included former White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows among its attendees. The group, now called the Third Century Group (TC Group)... Thomas also wrote that the group met ‘through the help of [conservative organization] Judicial Watch.’” [American Oversight, [3/8/22](#)]
- **Groundswell’s Other Members Have Included Conservative Activist Leonard Leo, Steve Bannon, Dan Bongino, Ken Blackwell of Family Research Council, And Leadership At The American Legislative Exchange Council And Independent Women’s Forum.** “Other Groundswell members include... Ken Blackwell and Jerry Boykin of the Family Research Council... Gayle Trotter, a fellow at the Independent Women’s Forum... Among the conveners listed in an invitation to a May 8 meeting of Groundswell were Stephen Bannon, executive chairman of Breitbart News Network; Dan Bongino, a former Secret Service agent who resoundingly lost a Maryland Senate race last year (and is now running for a House seat); Leonard Leo, executive vice president of the Federalist Society; Sandy Rios, a Fox News contributor; Lori Roman, a former executive director of the American Legislative Exchange Council...” [Mother Jones, [7/25/13](#)]

**In A 2021 Email To Ron DeSantis’ Office, Thomas Described TCG As “A Cone Of Silence Coalition” Of “About 83 National Leaders.”** “It is a cone of silence coalition that Mark Meadows attends and has presented at as well as many other allies he would know. Our group is about 83 national leaders and we usually get about 40-50 attendees. We focus on action items for the greatest threats and opportunities to constitutional governance, and admittedly, we are weary about the GOP divisions, lack of courage and lack of leadership.” [DocumentCloud, [2/4/22](#)]

**In A 2013 Article On TCG, The Group Was Said To Have Worked On Right-Wing Strategy Around Voting Rights, Immigration, Abortion, And Gay Marriage.** “At its weekly meetings, the group aims to strengthen the right’s messaging by crafting Twitter hashtags; plotting strategy on in-the-headlines issues such as voter ID, immigration reform, and the sequester; promoting politically useful scandals; and developing ‘action items’... With her involvement in Groundswell—which zeroes in on contentious issues that come before the high court, including voting rights, abortion, and gay marriage—Ginni Thomas continues to be intricately associated with matters on which her husband may have to render a decision.”

**During Trump’s First Term, TCG “[Had] A Weekly Meeting On Wednesdays Where They [Got] Together To Plan How To Attack The Left And Also How To Root Out The, Quote-Unquote, ‘Deep State’ Within Donald Trump’s Government.”** “[Axios Reporter Jonathan] Swan: ‘All of those and also in the White House. So he has a network outside the White House, which is comprised of very well-connected conservative activists. One of them in particular is Ginni Thomas, who is the wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. Others include Republican congressional staffers, the head of Judicial Watch, which is a conservative legal watchdog group, Tom Fitton. And they have a weekly meeting on Wednesdays where they get together to

plan how to attack the left and also how to root out the, quote-unquote, “deep state” within Donald Trump’s government.” [NPR, [2/27/20](#)]

## **Through TCG, Thomas And Fitton Have Collaborated On How To Package Voter Suppression Efforts Palatably To Voters.**

**In 2013, Developing Favorable Messaging Around Voter ID Laws Was A High-Priority Issue For TCG.** “A high-priority cause for Groundswellers is voter identification efforts—what progressives would call voter suppression... In response, Tapscott suggested, ‘How about ‘Election Integrity’?’ And Gaffney weighed in: ‘I like it.’ Fitton noted that Judicial Watch had an ‘Election Integrity Project.’ Boyle proposed, ‘Fair and equal elections,’ explaining, ‘Terms ‘fair’ and ‘equal’ connect with most people. It’s why the left uses them.’ Then came True the Vote’s Anita MonCrief: ‘We do a lot under the Election Integrity Banner. Does not resonate with the people. Voter Rights may be better. We really have been trying to get the messaging right.’” [Mother Jones, [7/25/13](#)]

**In 2021 Emails, Obtained By American Oversight, TCG Members Were Said To Be “Very Concerned” About “Election Integrity.”** “Emails obtained by American Oversight and reported on by Politico suggest that Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas has communicated regularly with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis... According to an email from Thomas Binion, a vice president at the Heritage Foundation who was planning to introduce the governor at the meeting, DeSantis was invited to speak ‘about whatever is on his mind in terms of national politics’ and the attendees were ‘very concerned about [critical race theory], election integrity and immigration.’” [American Oversight, [2/7/22](#)]

## **Thomas And Fitton Worked Together As Board Members Of CNP Action, The Lobbying Arm Of The Council For National Policy, A Group That Functions As A Secretive Networking Hub For Powerful Conservatives.**

**The Council For National Policy (CNP) Is An Intensely Secretive Group Comprised Of Some Of The Most Powerful Conservatives In The Country.** “Three times a year for 23 years, a little-known club of a few hundred of the most powerful conservatives in the country have met behind closed doors at undisclosed locations for a confidential conference, the Council for National Policy, to strategize about how to turn the country to the right.” [New York Times, [8/28/04](#)]

**CNP Is A Closed-Door “Social, Planning And Communications Hub” For Conservative Elected Officials, Donors, And Activists.** “Yet here he was in a conference room at the Ritz-Carlton in McLean, Va., soliciting support from a closed-door group of conservative leaders called the Council for National Policy... Enmeshed in these efforts was the Council for National Policy. CNP may be the most unusual, least understood conservative organization in the nation’s capital. A registered charity, it has served for 40 years as a social, planning and communications hub for conservative activists in Washington and nationwide. One of its defining features is its confidentiality.” [The Washington Post, [10/25/21](#)]

- **CNP Functions More Like A Private Social Hub Rather Than An Advocacy Group With A Narrow Mission.** “Other bastions of conservative influence — from policy groups like the Heritage Foundation to media outlets like Breitbart News — generally have clear missions. By contrast, CNP’s executive director, Bob McEwen, told me that the organization itself does not ‘do anything.’ He and other CNP leaders will tell you it is merely an educational venue aimed at uniting its conservative members.” [The Washington Post, [10/25/21](#)]
- **The Southern Poverty Law Center Described The CNP As A Shadowy Organization Focused On Building The Conservative Movement.** “For 35 years, a shadowy and intensely secretive group has operated behind the scenes, providing a venue three times a year for powerful American politicians and others on the right to meet privately to build the conservative movement.” [Southern Poverty Law Center, [5/17/16](#)]

**2021: A Leaked Member List Revealed That The CNP Includes Representatives Of Major Corporations, Trump Administration Officials, Extremists, Conspiracy Theorists, And Numerous SPLC-Listed Hate Groups, Among Others.** “The document – which reveals email addresses and phone numbers for most members – shows that the CNP includes members of SPLC-listed hate groups... Along with these representatives of extremist positions, the CNP rolls include members of ostensibly more mainstream conservative groups, and representatives of major American corporations. Still others come from the Republican party, a network of rightwing activist organizations, and the companies and foundations that back them.” [The Guardian, [9/30/21](#)]

**President Trump Has Spoken At CNP Meetings.** “Remarks by President Trump at the 2020 Council for National Policy Meeting.” [Trump White House Archives, [8/21/20](#)]

**CNP Action Is CNP's Lobbying Arm.** “Ken Blackwell serves alongside Ginni (Mrs. Clarence) Thomas on the board of CNP Action, the CNP's lobbying arm, which has taken a keen interest in election mechanics.” [The New Republic, [8/26/22](#)]

**Thomas And Fitton Were Both Board Members Of CNP Action In The FY 2021.**

THOMAS J FITTON
DIRECTOR
VIRGINIA THOMAS
DIRECTOR

[ProPublica, IRS form 990 of CNP Action, 2021, accessed [8/20/25](#)]

- **Thomas Sat On CNP Action's Board In Its FYs 2019-2021.** [ProPublica, IRS forms 990 of CNP Action, 2019-2021, accessed [8/22/25](#)]
- **Fitton Sat On CNP Action's Board In Its FYs 2021-2023, The Most Recent Year Disclosed.** [ProPublica, IRS forms 990 of CNP Action, 2021-2023, accessed [8/22/25](#)]
- **Fitton Sat On CNP's Board In Its FYs 2018-2020.** [ProPublica, IRS forms 990 of the Council for National Policy, 2018-2020, accessed [8/22/25](#)]
- **Fitton Was CNP's President In Its FYs 2021-2023; Its FY 2023 Tax Forms Are The Latest Available, As Of August 2025.** [ProPublica, IRS forms 990 of the Council for National Policy, 2018-2020, accessed [8/22/25](#)]

## **2017: Thomas Presented Fitton With An “Impact Award” Sponsored By Christian Nationalist Strategy Group United In Purpose.**

**2017: Ginni Thomas Presented Tom Fitton With An Award At An Award Ceremony Hosted By Conservative Group United In Purpose.** “James O’Keefe, the conservative activist who attempted to plant a false story in The Washington Post this month about GOP Senate candidate Roy Moore, was presented Wednesday with an Impact Award, handed to him by Ginni Thomas, wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. O’Keefe accepted the award on behalf of his organization, Project Veritas, at an event hosted by the conservative group United for Purpose at the Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C. ‘Proud to receive the Impact award from Ginni Thomas on behalf of the @project\_veritas team,’ O’Keefe wrote on Instagram, before praising other 2017 award recipients such as Fox New host Sean Hannity and Judicial Watch president Tom Fitton as ‘fighters.’” [The Hill, [12/6/17](#)]

- **United In Purpose Is A Conservative Christian Voter Microtargeting Group That Helped Catapult Trump To Power In 2016.** “How a data-backed Christian nationalist machine helped Trump to power... Dallas soon established a fruitful partnership with George Barna, the California-based evangelical pollster. It was a match made in heaven. Dallas realized his vast network could collect data and use it to create more effective messaging. And now he had the resources to make it happen. Dallas set up United in Purpose (UiP), and by November 2016, he had thousands of conservative churches in reach.

These ‘strategically cultivated support for a variety of pro-life, pro-family, limited government candidates in swing states,’ according to Barna – all bound by the idea that ‘politics was one of the life spheres in which their faith should have influence.’” [The Guardian, [3/20/20](#)]

- **United In Purpose Is A Christian Nationalist Group.** “At some point in 2018, the website for United in Purpose was scrubbed. All that remained was a splash page. Nevertheless, its profile within the Christian nationalist movement continued to climb.” [The Guardian, [3/20/20](#)]

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