

Will Crain, Trump's Nominee To The U.S. District Court For The Eastern District Of Louisiana, Has Received Significant Campaign Contributions From Oil And Gas Companies And Casted A Key Vote To Uphold Louisiana's Draconian Abortion Ban With No Exceptions For Rape Or Incest

SUMMARY: President Donald Trump [nominated](#) Louisiana Supreme Court Justice William "Will" Crain to serve as a federal judge on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. Crain has served on the Louisiana Supreme Court since late 2019, after [serving on the Louisiana First Circuit Court of Appeal](#) from 2013 to 2019 and as a judge on the Twenty-Second Judicial District Court from 2009 to 2013. Before his judicial career, Crain maintained a general litigation practice for 22 years and [earned his law degree](#) from Louisiana State University's Paul M. Hebert Law Center in 1986. He is also a member of the Federalist Society and [participated in events](#) hosted by the organization.

Crain's 2019 Louisiana Supreme Court campaign was heavily backed by energy industry interests and big business, raising over [\\$1 million total](#) in contributions. His campaign finance reports reveal a troubling pattern of support from the very industries that frequently appear before Louisiana courts. Major corporate contributors included:

- Koch Industries: \$10,000
- ExxonMobil: \$5,000
- Chevron Policy Government & Public Affairs: \$5,000
- Houston Energy LP: \$5,000
- Helis Oil & Gas Company: \$2,500
- The Dow Chemical Company: \$2,500
- Badger Oil Corporation: \$2,500
- Hornbeck Offshore Operators, LLC: \$5,000
- Lavigne Oil Company: \$1,000

Crain also received massive support from business-aligned political action committees: EASTPAC (\$10,000), SOUTH PAC (\$10,000), WESTPAC (\$10,000), NORTH PAC (\$9,201.67), and MC-PAC (\$5,000), along with backing from the Louisiana Association for Business and Industry (LABI).

These financial relationships created immediate conflicts of interest. Since [joining the Louisiana Supreme Court](#), Crain has been subject to at least [three recusal motions](#) from the Talbot, Carmouche and Marcello law firm, which represented landowners in lawsuits against oil and gas companies. The firm [argued](#) that Crain's campaign mailers targeting attorney John Carmouche [demonstrated "actual bias,"](#) and the Supreme Court's other justices voted to recuse Crain from two of Carmouche's cases in February 2020.

Crain's commitment to transparency came under scrutiny when he joined four other justices in [secretly crafting a redistricting proposal](#) for Supreme Court districts without public input. The five justices developed a map to add a second majority-Black district but did not hold public hearings or seek public comment, and Chief Justice John Weimer appears to have been sidelined. While the goal seemed laudable, the process stood in stark contrast to the 2022 congressional redistricting where lawmakers spent extensive time educating the public. Critics [emphasized](#) that "adopting proposals crafted behind closed doors without public input is not how representative democracy works."

Crain's record on reproductive rights raises serious concerns about his views on women's healthcare. During his 2019 election, he campaigned as "pro-life" and [staunchly anti-abortion](#). In August 2022, he [cast a decisive vote](#) to keep Louisiana's abortion ban in effect, which had [no exceptions for rape or incest](#). The

ruling came without written explanation despite severe consequences. In one [documented case](#), a woman 16 weeks pregnant was denied an abortion even though her fetus had no chance of survival and was forced to deliver and lost one liter of blood. Doctors [warn](#) the ban's vague language could lead to women's deaths and has created a chilling effect in the medical community, as physicians struggle to determine when they can legally provide care even under narrow exceptions for saving a patient's life.

Crain's record also raises concerns about his commitment to social justice. In 2022, he [joined the majority ruling](#) that prohibitions against nonunanimous jury convictions—outlawed by Louisiana voters and the U.S. Supreme Court as Jim Crow-era relics—do not apply retroactively. This keeps people imprisoned based on laws rooted in racial discrimination. In April 2025, Crain dissented when the Louisiana Supreme Court threw out execution warrants for two men whose lawyers argued they hadn't been allowed to fully pursue post-conviction relief, demonstrating a concerning willingness to proceed with executions even when defendants may not have exhausted their legal rights.

On October 20, 2025, Trump Announced That He Would Nominate Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Will Crain To The Eastern District Of Louisiana

Crain, Who Is A Member Of The Federalist Society, Has Served As A Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Since 2019 After Previously Serving On Louisiana's First Circuit Court Of Appeal And As A District Court Judge

October 20, 2025: President Trump Announced That He Would Nominate William "Will" Jerrol Crain To The United States District Court For The Eastern District Of Louisiana. "President Donald Trump plans to nominate a Louisiana Supreme Court justice and a former top federal prosecutor for US district judgeships in the state. William Crain is Trump's pick for a vacancy on the US District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, and Alexander Van Hook is his choice for a seat on the Western District of Louisiana, Trump posted Monday on Truth Social." [Bloomberg Law, [10/20/25](#)]

Will Crain Was A Member of The Federalist Society And Participated In Events Hosted By The Organization

Will Crain Was A Member Of The Federalist Society From 2001 Through 2011 And From 2017 Until 2020. "Federalist Society (2001 – 2011; 2017 – 2019)" [Alliance for Justice, accessed [10/21/25](#)]

February 22, 2017: Will Crain Spoke At An Event In Baton Rouge, Louisiana That Was Hosted By The Federalist Society.

PAST EVENTS



This event has concluded.

**Feb
22**
2017

Wednesday
11:30 a.m.

Update from the Judiciary

Galatoire's Bistro 3535 Perkins Road #400
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

Speakers: William Crain · Greg Guidry · G. Brian Jackson

Topics: Federalism & Separation of Powers

Sponsors: Baton Rouge Lawyers Chapter

In-Person Event

[Federalist Society, [2/22/17](#)]

Crain Was A Member Of The 2011 Inaugural Class Of The Louisiana Judicial Leadership Institute And Served As Former President Of The Board Of Governors For The Louisiana Judicial College. “He was a member of the 2011 inaugural class of the Louisiana Judicial Leadership Institute, as well as a member of the court cost committee of the Louisiana Judicial Council. He is the former President of the Board of Governors for the Louisiana Judicial College.” [Louisiana Supreme Court, accessed [10/1/25](#)]

Crain Maintained A General Litigation Law Practice For 22 Years Handling Complex Trial Cases And Lectured At Continuing Legal Education Seminars On Topics Including Evidence, Persuasion, And Professionalism. “Judge Crain maintained a general litigation law practice for 22 years handling complex judge and jury trial cases. He has been a lecturer at continuing legal education seminars on many topics including ‘Evidence and Persuasion at Trial’, ‘Professionalism’ and writ and appellate practice.” [Louisiana Supreme Court, accessed [10/1/25](#)]

Crain Earned A Bachelor’s In Accounting From Louisiana State University And His J.D. From The Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center.

EDUCATION

J.D., Louisiana State University, Paul M. Hebert Law
Center - 1986

Bachelor's degree, Louisiana State University - 1983

[Trellis Law, accessed [10/6/25](#)]

In 2019, Crain Was Elected To The Louisiana State Supreme Court

Will Crain Was Elected To The Louisiana Supreme Court In November 2019 And Previously Served On The Louisiana First Circuit Court Of Appeal Since 2013, And On The Twenty-Second Judicial District Court Since 2009. “Justice Crain was a member of the Louisiana First Circuit Court of Appeal from 2013 until his election to the Louisiana Supreme Court on November 16, 2019. He is formerly a Judge with the Twenty-Second Judicial District Court for St. Tammany and Washington parishes from 2009 to 2013. A 1983 graduate of Louisiana State University with a degree in accounting, Judge Crain graduated from the LSU Law Center in 1986.” [Louisiana Supreme Court, accessed [9/29/25](#)]

- **Before Becoming A Judge, Crain Maintained A General Litigation Practice, Taught Legal Courses, And Was President Of The Board Of Governors For The Louisiana Judicial College.** “Judge Crain maintained a general litigation law practice for 22 years handling complex judge and jury trial cases. He has been a lecturer at continuing legal education seminars on many topics including “Evidence and Persuasion at Trial”, ‘Professionalism’ and writ and appellate practice. He was a member of the 2011 inaugural class of the Louisiana Judicial Leadership Institute, as well as a member of the court cost committee of the Louisiana Judicial Council. He is the former President of the Board of Governors for the Louisiana Judicial College” [Louisiana Supreme Court, accessed [9/29/25](#)]

While Campaigning To Be On The Louisiana State Supreme Court, Justice Crain Took Multiple Contributions From Big Special Interest Groups And Corporations And Had To Recuse Himself From Lawsuits Due To Conflicts Of Interest

During His Campaign To Be On The Louisiana Supreme Court, Justice Crain Accepted Multiple Contributions From Big Oil, Gas, And Energy Companies

Will Crain Had Endorsements And Financial Support From Big Business, Including The Louisiana Association For Business And Industry (LABI) And Oil And Gas Associations. “[Will Crain] had endorsements and financial support from big business, as the powerful Louisiana Association for Business and Industry and oil and gas associations backed him.” [The Advocate, [2/15/25](#)]

Louisiana Has Seen Special-Interest Spending On Judicial Elections Soar In Recent Years, With Republican Justice Will Crain Raising \$1 Million Including Donations From LABI And Fossil Fuel Companies. “Louisiana has seen special-interest spending on judicial elections soar in recent years. Last year, for example, Republican Justice Will Crain was elected to the state's high court after raising \$1 million in campaign cash, including donations from LABI and fossil fuel companies. A political action committee funded by trial lawyers spent the most on campaign ads in the race. The amount of special interest money in the state's judicial races has led to calls for reform.” [Facing South, [8/26/20](#)]

From The Period Of July 5, 2019 Through September 2, 2019, Then-Candidate Crain Received Approximately \$491,168.16 In Contributions

RECEIPTS	This Period
1. Contributions (Schedule A-1)	\$ 489,801.67
2. In-kind Contributions (Schedule A-2)	\$ 1,366.49
3. Campaign paraphernalia sales of \$25 or less	\$ 0.00
4. TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS (Lines 1 + 2 +33)	\$ 491,168.16
5. Other Receipts (Schedule A-3)	\$ 0.00
6. Loans Received (Schedule B)	\$ 0.00
7. Loan Repayments Received (Schedule D)	\$ 0.00
8. TOTAL RECEIPTS (Lines 4 + 5 + 6 + 7)	\$ 491,168.16

[Louisiana Ethics Administration Program, [9/11/19](#)]

From The Period Of September 3, 2019 Through September 22, 2019, Then-Candidate Crain Received Approximately \$106,425 In Contributions.

RECEIPTS	This Period
1. Contributions (Schedule A-1)	\$ 106,425.00
2. In-kind Contributions (Schedule A-2)	\$ 0.00
3. Campaign paraphernalia sales of \$25 or less	\$ 0.00
4. TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS (Lines 1 + 2 +33)	\$ 106,425.00
5. Other Receipts (Schedule A-3)	\$ 0.00
6. Loans Received (Schedule B)	\$ 0.00
7. Loan Repayments Received (Schedule D)	\$ 0.00
8. TOTAL RECEIPTS (Lines 4 + 5 + 6 + 7)	\$ 106,425.00

[Louisiana Ethics Administration Program, [10/28/19](#)]

From The Period Of September 23, 2019 Through October 27, 2019, Then-Candidate Crain Received Approximately \$263,275 In Contributions.

RECEIPTS	This Period
1. Contributions (Schedule A-1)	\$ 263,275.00
2. In-kind Contributions (Schedule A-2)	\$ 0.00
3. Campaign paraphernalia sales of \$25 or less	\$ 0.00
4. TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS (Lines 1 + 2 +33)	\$ 263,275.00
5. Other Receipts (Schedule A-3)	\$ 0.00
6. Loans Received (Schedule B)	\$ 0.00
7. Loan Repayments Received (Schedule D)	\$ 0.00
8. TOTAL RECEIPTS (Lines 4 + 5 + 6 + 7)	\$ 263,275.00

[Louisiana Ethics Administration Program, [11/6/19](#)]

From The Period Of October 28, 2019 Through December 16, 2019, Then-Candidate Crain Received Approximately \$299,800 In Contributions.

RECEIPTS	This Period
1. Contributions (Schedule A-1)	\$ 299,800.00
2. In-kind Contributions (Schedule A-2)	\$ 0.00
3. Campaign paraphernalia sales of \$25 or less	\$ 0.00
4. TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS (Lines 1 + 2 +33)	\$ 299,800.00
5. Other Receipts (Schedule A-3)	\$ 0.00
6. Loans Received (Schedule B)	\$ 0.00
7. Loan Repayments Received (Schedule D)	\$ 0.00
8. TOTAL RECEIPTS (Lines 4 + 5 + 6 + 7)	\$ 299,800.00

[Louisiana Ethics Administration Program, [1/22/20](#)]

During His Campaign To Be On The Louisiana Supreme Court, Crain Received Multiple Contributions From Big Oil, Gas, And Energy Companies.

Exxon Mobile Contributed \$5,000 To Crain's Campaign In 2019.

EXXON MOBIL CORPORATION P O Box 7659 Spring, TX 77387	11/11/2019	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
POLITICAL COMMITTEE? _____ PARTY COMMITTEE? _____			

[Louisiana Ethics Administration Program, [1/22/20](#)]

Helis Oil & Gas Company, LLC Gave \$2,500 To Crain's Campaign In 2019.

HELIS OIL & GAS COMPANY, LLC 201 St. Charles Avenue, Suite 2600 New Orleans, LA 70170	11/07/2019	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
POLITICAL COMMITTEE? _____ PARTY COMMITTEE? _____			

[Louisiana Ethics Administration Program, [1/22/20](#)]**Koch Industries, Inc Gave \$10,000 Total To Crain's Campaign In 2019.**

KOCH INDUSTRIES, INC. 4111 East 37th St North Wichita, KS 67220	11/04/2019	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00
POLITICAL COMMITTEE? _____ PARTY COMMITTEE? _____			

[Louisiana Ethics Administration Program, [1/22/20](#)]**Lavigne Oil Company Gave \$1,000 To Crain's Campaign In 2019.**

LAVIGNE OIL COMPANY OF BR, LLC 11203 Proverbs Avenue Baton Rouge, LA 70816	11/14/2019	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
POLITICAL COMMITTEE? _____ PARTY COMMITTEE? _____			

[Louisiana Ethics Administration Program, [1/22/20](#)]**The Dow Chemical Company Gave \$2,500 To Crain's Campaign In 2019.**

THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY 355 Highway 342 Hahnville, LA 70057	11/20/2019	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00
POLITICAL COMMITTEE? _____ PARTY COMMITTEE? _____			

[Louisiana Ethics Administration Program, [1/22/20](#)]**After Being Elected On The Louisiana Supreme Court, Justice Crain Had To Recuse From Lawsuits Due To Multiple Conflicts Of Interest**

Will Crain Has Been The Subject Of Three Recusal Motions From The Talbot, Carmouche And Marcello Law Firm Since The Start Of 2020. "Will Crain, who was elected to one of the seven seats on the Supreme Court late last year after a bitter race, has been the subject of three recusal motions from the Talbot, Carmouche and Marcello law firm since the start of the year." [NOLA, [7/13/20](#)]

The Carmouche Law Firm Argued That A Campaign Mailer From Crain Targeting Attorney John Carmouche Showed That Crain Harbors "Actual Bias" Against Him. "The firm often represents landowners or governments in coastal and property damage lawsuits against oil and gas companies. In asking for Crain's recusal, the firm's attorneys have pointed to a mailer from Crain's campaign that targeted attorney John Carmouche and questioned his spending in support of Crain's opponent, appeals court judge Hans Liljeberg. Carmouche's firm has argued that the mailer, which warned voters 'don't be deceived' by Carmouche, showed that Crain harbors "actual bias" against him." [NOLA, [7/13/20](#)]

The Supreme Court's Other Justices Voted To Recuse Crain From Two Of Carmouche's Cases In February After The Law Firm's First Recusal Motion. “That argument was successful the first time the law firm made it in February; the Supreme Court’s other justices voted to recuse Crain from two of Carmouche’s cases.” [NOLA, [7/13/20](#)]

Oil And Gas Companies Argued Against Further Recusals Of Crain, With An Attorney Questioning Whether Parties Can Use Campaign Advertisements To Conclude That A Justice Is Biased. “Chevron wants the Supreme Court to overrule the Third Circuit to reinstate the jury’s verdict. Carmouche is asking the court to take Crain out of the picture. This time, oil and gas companies argue that enough is enough. Mike Phillips, an attorney who represented Chevron in a different case when the Supreme Court recused Crain in February, didn’t oppose it back then. This time, he has. ‘The issue is really whether any party is going to come in a case like this and use a campaign advertisement to conclude that a justice is biased,’ Phillips said.” [NOLA, [7/13/20](#)]

Justice Crain Was Part Of A Five-Justice Coalition That Drew A Redistricting Map In Secret Without Public Input Or Consultation With Chief Justice Weimer

December 2023: Five Louisiana Supreme Court Justices Proposed A Redistricted Supreme Court Map Which Would Add A Second Majority-Minority Seat

December 2023: Five Justices On The Louisiana Supreme Court Called On Incoming State Leaders To Redraw The Supreme Court’s Seven Districts To Add A Second Black-Majority District. “A majority of justices on the Louisiana Supreme Court are calling on incoming state leaders to redraw the court’s seven districts to add a second with a majority of Black voters. They’re urging that it be part of an upcoming court-ordered redistricting session of the legislature. Five justices signed a letter sent Wednesday to Gov.-elect Jeff Landry, Attorney General-elect Liz Murrill, incoming Louisiana House Speaker Phillip DeVillier and state Senate President designee Cameron Henry. In it, they lend their support to a proposal that creates a second minority-majority district among the court’s seven seats.” [Louisiana Illuminator, [12/29/23](#)]

- **Justice Crain Signed Onto The Letter.** “The five Louisiana Supreme Court associate justices who signed the letter are Willie Crain, James Genovese, Piper Griffin, Jefferson Hughes and Jay McCallum. Griffin is the only Black justice on the state’s highest court.” [Louisiana Illuminator, [12/29/23](#)]

Louisiana Law Does Not Require Lawmakers To Redraw Boundaries For Supreme Court Districts, Unlike Legally Mandated Updates To House And State Legislature Maps. “Louisiana law doesn’t require lawmakers to redraw boundaries for Louisiana Supreme Court districts, unlike legally mandated decennial updates to boundaries for its U.S. House, legislative and state school board seats. Although their letter carries no more weight than a strong suggestion, the justices hint that the court’s current composition could face a legal challenge similar to the one the congressional map faces.” [Louisiana Illuminator, [12/29/23](#)]

May 2024: Governor Landry Signed A Bill Creating A Second Black-Majority State Supreme Court District. “Today, Governor Jeff Landry held a bill signing in his office in the Capitol. He signed Senator Cleo Fields bill, SB 255. This bill creates a second majority-black Supreme Court seat in Louisiana.” [Louisiana Office of the Governor, [5/1/24](#)]

Critics Argued The Process Lacked Transparency And Public Vetting, Contrary To How The Democratic Process Is Supposed To Operate, Critics Say

Melinda Deslatte, Who Spent More Than Two Decades As A Reporter At The Associated Press, Penned An Article Criticizing The Lack Of Transparency Shown By The Louisiana Supreme Court Justices When Drawing A New Districts Map

Melinda Deslatte Is Research Director For The Public Affairs Research Council Of Louisiana And Was Previously An Associated Press Reporter For 22 Years. “Melinda Deslatte is research director for the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana. She was previously an Associated Press reporter for 22 years. Melinda has a bachelor’s degree in mass communication from LSU and a master’s degree in journalism from the University of Maryland.” [Louisiana Illuminator, accessed [10/9/25](#)]

January 12, 2024: Melinda Deslatte Published An Article Entitled, “Louisiana Supreme Court Redistricting Lacks Transparency.”

COMMENTARY

PAR: Louisiana Supreme Court redistricting lacks transparency



MELINDA DESLATTE

JANUARY 12, 2024 5:00 AM



[Commentary - Louisiana Illuminator, [1/12/24](#)]

In Deslatte’s Article, She Highlights That The Louisiana Supreme Court Justices, Including Will Crain, Did Not Hold Public Hearings Or Seek Public Comment About The Redistricting Efforts

The Five Justices Involved In The Redistricting Did Not Hold Public Hearings, Did Not Seek Public Comment, And Chief Justice John Weimer Appears To Have Been Sidelined Throughout The Process.

“The state Supreme Court – at least the five justices involved in the proposed district redesign – didn’t hold public hearings, didn’t seek public comment and didn’t appear to want any actual vetting of the map. More confounding is the leader of the court, Chief Justice John Weimer, appears to have been sidelined throughout the entire process.” [Commentary - Louisiana Illuminator, [1/12/24](#)]

By Contrast, The Congressional Redistricting Debate Has Been Talked About Publicly With Different Map Proposals, Much Deliberation, And Many Open Court Hearings Across Several Years. “By contrast, the congressional redistricting debate has been talked about publicly, with different map proposals, much deliberation and many open court hearings across several years.” [Commentary - Louisiana Illuminator, [1/12/24](#)]

Louisiana Illuminator: Louisiana Citizens “Deserve The Right To Participate In Redistricting Rather Than Being Told What’s Best By Judicial Leaders Seeking To Preserve Their Own Positions.” “Louisiana citizens who are served by the court and who elect its justices deserve the right to participate, rather than being told what’s best for them by judicial leaders seeking to preserve their own positions and other elected officials possibly seeking to draw districts that help allies win seats in the future.” [Commentary - Louisiana Illuminator, [1/12/24](#)]

The Five Justices Cited Ongoing Federal Litigation Challenging The Current Districts As Discriminatory Against Minorities And Asked That Their Proposed Plan Be Adopted Without Change.

“In their letter to the governor, attorney general and legislative leaders, the justices cited ongoing federal litigation challenging the current districts as discriminatory against minorities. They also noted that decades

have passed since the last time lawmakers redesigned the map. They said they were hopeful reworking the layout to include another majority-minority district would resolve the lawsuit, and they asked “that the proposed plan be adopted without change.” [Commentary - Louisiana Illuminator, [1/12/24](#)]

Louisiana Illuminator: “Adopting Proposals Crafted Behind Closed Doors Without Public Input Is Not How Representative Democracy Works.” “Adopting proposals crafted behind closed doors without public input is not how representative democracy works – or at least it shouldn’t be.” [Commentary - Louisiana Illuminator, [1/12/24](#)]

The Legislature Set The Current Supreme Court Boundary Lines In 1997 Based On 1990 Census Data, And In Its 2022 Redistricting Work, Lawmakers Spent Extensive Time Educating The Public And Giving Them Time To Review Proposals. “New high court maps would require support from two-thirds of the House and Senate to pass. The Legislature set the current Supreme Court boundary lines in 1997, based on Census data from 1990, when Louisiana had hundreds of thousands of fewer state residents. The map is well overdue for a redesign. In its prior redistricting work in 2022, the Legislature spent extensive time educating the public about the latest Census data, changes to the state’s population and principles involved in redistricting. Lawmakers gave the public ample time to review proposals online and communicate their concerns.” [Commentary - Louisiana Illuminator, [1/12/24](#)]

The Two Justices Whose Districts Were Significantly Altered Opposed The Specific Map’s Drawing

Chief Justice John Weimer And Associate Justice Scott Crichton, Whose Districts Were Both Drastically Altered, Opposed The Specific Map. “Its boundary revisions create a second majority-Black district that connects Monroe to Baton Rouge, and it also splits a dozen parishes among different districts to reach its racial and voter representation goals. In doing so, the districts of Chief Justice John Weimer and Associate Justice Scott Crichton are drastically altered. Both men went public in late December with their opposition to the map Crain wants, with both adding they also support the creation of a second majority-Black district.” [Commentary - Louisiana Illuminator, [1/19/24](#)]

- **Crain Testified That The Justices Never Met As A Group To Discuss The Map And That Weimer Saw The Map Before It Was Sent To The Governor-Elect.** “Asked whether Weimer had any input on drawing the map in Johnson’s bill, Crain said the justices never met as a group to discuss district boundaries. ‘This was done individually, by individual to look at the districts because it’s really, really hard,’ Crain said. ‘...The chief (justice) ... he was provided (the map) — I mean, I don’t remember the day — but it was several days before the letter went out to the governor-elect and the other members.’” [Commentary - Louisiana Illuminator, [1/19/24](#)]

Justice Will Crain Voted To Keep Louisiana’s Statewide Abortion Ban, Which Has No Exceptions For Rape Or Incest, And Campaigned As A “Pro-Life” Candidate

Louisiana's Abortion Ban Has No Exceptions For Rape Or Incest, And Justice Crain Voted To Deny A Legal Challenge That Would Have Overturned The Ban

June 24, 2022: Louisiana Began Enforcing Its Trigger Ban Prohibiting Abortion At All Stages Of Pregnancy Following The U.S. Supreme Court’s Decision To Overturn *Roe v. Wade*. “On June 24, 2022, Louisiana began enforcing its trigger ban, which prohibits abortion at all stages of pregnancy,^[1] following the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* in the case *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*.^[2] The trigger ban was challenged in state court,^[3] but the lawsuit was dismissed,^[4] and the ban is in effect.” [Center for Reproductive Rights, accessed [10/6/25](#)]

- **The Abortion Ban Carries A Maximum Penalty Of 15 Years In Jail For Anyone Who Provides An Abortion Deemed Illegal.** “The ban carries a maximum penalty of 15 years in jail for anyone who provides an abortion deemed illegal.” [New Orleans Public Radio, [8/12/22](#)]
- **May 2024: A GOP-Controlled Legislative Committee Rejected A Bill That Would Have Added Rape And Incest Exceptions To Louisiana’s Abortion Ban Despite Testimony From Doctors And Rape Survivors.** “Despite pleas from Democrats and gut-wrenching testimony from doctors and rape survivors, a GOP-controlled legislative committee rejected a bill Tuesday that would have added cases of rape and incest as exceptions to Louisiana’s abortion ban.” [Associated Press, [5/7/24](#)]

August 2022: The Louisiana Supreme Court Voted To Keep The Statewide Ban In Effect With No Exceptions For Rape Or Incest. “Nearly all abortions remain illegal in Louisiana after the Louisiana Supreme Court voted to keep the statewide ban in effect. The ban has no exceptions for rape or incest.” [New Orleans Public Radio, [8/12/22](#)]

- **Four Of Seven Justices, Including Justice Will Crain, Denied A Writ Application To Overrule A Lower Court Decision Upholding The Abortion Ban.** “Lawyers for one of the state’s last abortion clinics and a plaintiff in the case, Hope Medical Group for Women in Shreveport, said four of seven justices denied their writ application to overrule a lower court decision. The justices issued the ruling without a written explanation. Justices Jefferson D. Hughes III, James T. Genovese, William J. Crain and Jay B. McCallum voted to deny the writ application. Justice Piper D. Griffin – the lone woman on the court – and Justice Scott J. Crichton did not vote.” [New Orleans Public Radio, [8/12/22](#)]

The Ban Has Changed Medical Care For Women In Louisiana, Including A Case Where A Woman At 16 Weeks Pregnant Was Denied An Abortion Even Though Her Fetus Had No Chance Of Survival. “The ban has already changed medical care for women in Louisiana hospitals. In one case, a woman who was 16 weeks pregnant when her water broke was denied an abortion at an LCMC hospital, even though her fetus had no chance of survival. Instead, she was forced to deliver the fetus and lost one liter of blood, according to an affidavit filed in the lawsuit by her doctor.” [New Orleans Public Radio, [8/12/22](#)]

Doctors In Louisiana Hospitals Have Said The Ban Could Lead To Women's Deaths And Create A Chill In The Medical Community Due To The Law's Vagueness. “Doctors in Louisiana hospitals have said the ban could lead to women’s deaths and create a chill in the medical community. Physicians told WWNO that the law is vague and could lead doctors to delay or deny abortion care, even when allowed under the ban’s narrow exceptions to save the life of the patient or when a fetus is deemed “medically futile,” or too sick to survive outside the womb.” [New Orleans Public Radio, [8/12/22](#)]

Crain Campaigned As A “Pro-Life” Candidate

Crain’s Campaign Described Him As “Pro-Life.”



[Will Crain Campaign Ad, 2019]

Crain Campaigned As A Staunchly Conservative Jurist Who Is Anti-Abortion And Fine With The Death Penalty. Crain Campaigned As Staunchly Anti-Abortion. “Crain, a Bogalusa native, campaigned as a staunchly conservative jurist, anti-abortion and fine with the death penalty.” [NOLA, 9/16/19]

On The Bench, Crain Has Ruled Against Social Justice

Crain Voted Against Retroactively Applying Prohibitions Against Nonunanimous Jury Convictions, Keeping People In Jail Because Of Non-Abolished Jim Crow Laws

2022: Crain Joined The Majority To Rule That Prohibitions Against Nonunanimous Jury Convictions, Outlawed By Louisiana Voters And The Supreme Court, Do Not Have To Apply Retroactively.

“Prohibitions against nonunanimous jury convictions — outlawed by Louisiana voters in 2018 and, later, by the U.S. Supreme Court — do not have to apply retroactively to earlier convictions, Louisiana’s highest court ruled Friday. [...] Four other justices — John Weimer, William Crain, Jay McCallum and Jefferson Hughes — were in the majority.” [Associated Press, [10/21/22](#)]

2020: The Supreme Court Ruled That Juries In State Criminal Trials Must Be Unanimous To Convict A Defendant, Ending A Quirk In Louisiana Remaining From Jim Crow Laws.

“The Supreme Court ruled Monday that juries in state criminal trials must be unanimous to convict a defendant, settling a quirk of constitutional law that had allowed divided votes to result in convictions in Louisiana and Oregon. Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote for the court that the practice is inconsistent with the Constitution’s right to a jury trial and that it should be discarded as a vestige of Jim Crow laws in Louisiana and racial, ethnic and religious bigotry that led to its adoption in Oregon in the 1930s.” [Associated Press, [4/20/20](#)]

The Supreme Court Allowed Louisiana To Find Retroactivity, But Did Not Require It In The Case Before Them. “When Justice Crain asked why SCOTUS did not apply retroactivity, Jamila noted that the issue wasn’t as squarely before the court as it is here in this case. She pointed out that SCOTUS clearly stated, in footnote 6, that ‘Louisiana remains free to find retroactivity.’ Amazingly, Jamila informed the Court and the audience that this is only the 2nd time in 32 years that the court has told a state that ‘you can do more’ on the issue.” [VOTE Blog, [5/10/22](#)]

Crain Dissented After The Court Threw Out Execution Warrants For Two Men Whose Lawyers Said They Did Not Have Enough Time To Pursue Post-Conviction Relief

April 2025: The Louisiana Supreme Court Threw Out Execution Warrants For Two Men Convicted In Separate Murder Cases After Defense Attorneys Argued The Men Were Not Allowed To Pursue Post-Conviction Relief Before Their Execution Dates. “The Louisiana Supreme Court threw out execution warrants Friday that a Caddo Parish judge has issued for two men convicted in separate murder cases. [...] Defense attorneys successfully argued both men were not allowed to pursue post-conviction relief to the extent allowed by law before the judge set their execution dates.” [Louisiana Illuminator, [4/11/25](#)]

Crain Dissented In The Case, Stating There Was No Reason To Withdraw The Death Warrants.

“Associate Justices William Crain and Jay McCallum dissented, and the court’s newest member, Associate Justice Cade Cole, concurred and dissented in part. Cole, Crain and McCallum agreed there was no reason to withdraw the death warrants, noting that a motion was pending in the trial court to address any of the defendants’ remaining issues.” [Louisiana Illuminator, [4/11/25](#)]

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