

Gender & Reproductive Justice

- ⚠️ Trump-appointed judges have relentlessly demolished frameworks protecting abortion access and other reproductive health care measures.
- ⚠️ In doing so, these judges have dismantled decades of precedent and stripped millions of their fundamental rights to bodily autonomy and access to reproductive health care.

The Cases

1 *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*

In June 2022, the Supreme Court's conservative majority [ended](#) the constitutional right to have an abortion, gutting decades of precedent and placing control over people's bodies and personal health and family planning decisions in the hands of the states.

What Happened? By a 6-3 majority, the Court upheld Mississippi's extreme 15-week abortion ban — with no exceptions for rape, incest, or the life of the pregnant person — while overturning approximately 50 years of precedent laid out in *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. Three justices in the majority were appointed by Trump: Kavanaugh, Gorsuch, and Barrett.

Impact: The devastation caused by *Dobbs* is undeniable. By handing states the power to ban abortion, the Court opened the floodgates. [Since the 2022 ruling](#), 12 states have enacted total abortion bans; four have imposed six-week gestational bans, before most know they are pregnant; three have imposed bans at 18 weeks or sooner; and 22 have bans at some stage after 18 weeks. The fallout has been deadly. Thousands of women have died, suffered harm, or been forced to carry pregnancies against their will or travel across state lines to receive reproductive health care — at great personal, physical, and economic cost.

2 *Food and Drug Administration (FDA) v. Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine (AHM)*

In 2023, Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk [suspended](#) the FDA's 24-year-old approval of mifepristone, a safe, effective, and widely prescribed abortion medication. The [Fifth Circuit partially affirmed](#) Judge Kacsmaryk's ruling, but the [Supreme Court reversed](#) it for lack of standing — without affirming the right to access. Now, attacks on mifepristone continue, as Kacsmaryk [permitted](#) the attorneys general of Idaho, Kansas, and Missouri to revive the lawsuit.

What Happened? Extremist anti-abortion group AHM strategically challenged the abortion pill in the Northern District of Texas — where [95% of lawsuits](#) go to Trump loyalist Judge Kacsmaryk, notorious for [his reprehensible record](#) on reproductive rights. As expected, he ruled to suspend the drug, ignoring decades of evidence proving its safety and efficacy. The ultra-conservative Fifth Circuit then partially upheld the ruling, letting the FDA's original approval stand but rolling back regulations that expanded access. Judge Ho, another Trump appointee whose wife has ties to AHM, claimed "doctors delight in working with their unborn patients — and experience an aesthetic injury when they are aborted." The Court later tossed out the case for lack of standing.

Impact: Now, the case rests with Trump's DOJ, which could choose to defend the drug — or abandon it entirely. With Project 2025 [calling for the FDA](#) to reverse its approval of mifepristone, the threat to reproductive health care is far from over.

3 *Deanda v. Becerra*

In 2022, [Judge Kacsmaryk ruled](#) that Title X — a federal program ensuring access to publicly funded family planning — violated parents' rights under Texas law by not requiring parental consent for teens to access contraception.

What Happened? Alexander Deanda challenged Title X because he did not want his children to access contraception or family planning services without his permission. Deanda argued that the federal program breached the Texas Family Code and the Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment. Kacsmaryk, dismissing decades of precedent related to adolescent access to contraception, ruled in favor of Deanda – holding that the Texas' state parental consent law applies regardless of the Title X statute. The Fifth Circuit [affirmed](#) this aspect of Kacsmaryk's decision on appeal.

Impact: These erroneous decisions frustrate Title X's goal of providing privacy and autonomy for adolescents who are making sensitive, often difficult decisions about contraception and family planning. It imposes a stark chilling effect on adolescents seeking reproductive healthcare, forcing them to involve parents or guardians in decisions surrounding sexual health. The ruling also emboldens other states to enact similar laws mandating parental consent and potentially further eroding the privacy protections of Title X moving forward. Additionally, in March 2025, the Trump administration withheld tens of millions of dollars in Title X funding, which will likely deny [millions of people from accessing crucial family planning services](#).

The Bigger Picture

The Courts Are Rigged Against Us

During his 2016 presidential campaign, Trump openly and explicitly pledged that he would overturn *Roe v. Wade* by appointing loyal conservative judges committed to advancing extreme-right ideology, despite decades of precedent affirming the constitutional right to privacy and overwhelming public support for bodily autonomy. With the help of right-wing organizations like the Federalist Society, Trump hand-picked judges renowned for their appalling record on reproductive rights. This included cementing a conservative super-majority on the Supreme Court by appointing three right-wing justices, as well as packing the lower federal courts with many underqualified, ideological judges with lifetime appointments, who continue to further limit our established reproductive and healthcare rights.

Why This Matters to You

How Trump Judges Are Setting Back Racial Justice and Endangering Immigrants

- Ideologue and extremist judges with lifetime appointments are mercilessly axing fundamental, well-established rights, including but not limited to reproductive freedom.
- These rulings make it extremely difficult to access safe abortion and reproductive healthcare, putting the lives and wellbeing of millions of Americans at risk.
- Our courts should be keeping us safe and protecting our basic reproductive rights – not stripping us of them.

What You Can Do



- Spread the word: Share this fact sheet to educate your communities.
- Hold lawmakers accountable: Demand senators reject any nominees who will protect the wealthy and powerful over the rights of all of us.
- Support organizations like AFJ that are fighting back.