

MARIA LANAHAN

Maria Ann Lanahan, currently Principal Deputy Solicitor General of Missouri, has built a legal career advocating for hardline conservative positions that threaten reproductive freedom, racial justice, labor rights, and civil liberties. Now nominated for a lifetime appointment to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, Lanahan's litigation record and affiliations reveal a clear ideological framework that could significantly damage and undermine the rights of millions if she is confirmed.

REPRODUCTIVE AND GENDER JUSTICE

Lanahan has actively worked to restrict access to reproductive health care, especially abortion services. She represented Missouri in [FDA v. Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine](#), a case in which anti-abortion groups sought to overturn the FDA's longstanding approval of mifepristone as a safe, effective, and widely used medication used in abortion care. Had this lawsuit succeeded, it would have severely limited abortion access nationwide, especially considering that medication abortions account for [approximately two-thirds of all abortions](#) within the United States.

Lanahan also defended Missouri's near-total abortion ban in *Blackmon v. State of Missouri*, aligning herself with extreme efforts to eliminate abortion access entirely. Additionally, she [filed a brief](#) in *Center for Medical Progress v. National Abortion Federation* in support of individuals involved in a deceptive and illegal scheme to infiltrate an organization that supports abortion providers under false pretenses. Her actions aimed to lift a court injunction designed to protect abortion providers and patients from deceptive behavior, harassment, and potential violence.

RACIAL JUSTICE, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND IMMIGRATION

Lanahan has defended laws that weaken police accountability and limit oversight of law enforcement. In [City of St. Louis v. State of Missouri](#), she supported Missouri's "Police Bill of Rights," which shields officers from investigation and discipline, curtails civilian oversight, and undermines transparency in cases of police misconduct. Her office also played a role in [Missouri v. Biden](#), a lawsuit opposing federal student loan debt relief — an initiative aimed, in part, at reducing the racial wealth gap caused by unequal access to higher education.

LABOR RIGHTS

Lanahan has supported legal efforts to erode public sector union protections and limit collective bargaining. In [AFSCME v. State of Missouri](#), she defended a law that sought to restrict union rights and redefine collective bargaining in ways that undermine workers' ability to organize and advocate for fair treatment. The case reflects a broader pattern of legal advocacy aimed at weakening worker protections and putting corporations over workers.

LGBTQ+ RIGHTS

Lanahan has supported legal efforts that threaten LGBTQ+ protections, including defending challenges to bans on conversion therapy. In cases such as [Wyatt Burry, LLC v. City of Kansas City, Missouri et al.](#), she backed arguments opposing local ordinances that prohibit conversion therapy on minors – a discredited and harmful practice condemned by major medical organizations. Her stance aligns with an ongoing commitment by conservative crusaders who seek to undermine the rights and well-being of LGBTQ+ individuals, particularly youth, under the guise of free speech and parental rights.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Lanahan has aligned with Republican-led efforts to dismantle environmental and social accountability in the financial sector. She participated in legal actions, such as [Utah v. Walsh](#), opposing Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) investing – an approach that promotes responsible corporate behavior and sustainability. By challenging ESG frameworks, Lanahan is working to shield corporations from scrutiny over environmental harm and social impact.