

SUSAN RODRIGUEZ

Susan Courtwright Rodriguez, nominated to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of North Carolina, is a longtime conservative lawyer whose career reflects deep partisan ties, loyalty to corporate interests, and a record of rulings that hurt workers, employees, and consumers and puts profits over people. She held multiple roles in the George W. Bush administration, including as a political appointee for the then-newly formed Department of Homeland Security, as well as with the White House counsel's office. After a second stint at the DHS, Rodriguez spent 12 years at McGuireWoods, where she co-led the Financial Institutions Industry Team and defended banks, payday lenders, and fintech companies against lawsuits and government investigations. She now serves as a magistrate judge for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of North Carolina.

CORPORATE DEFENSE & FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

At McGuire Woods, Rodriguez devoted her practice to defending large financial institutions and high-cost lenders. She co-authored industry-facing publications framing the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's regulatory oversight as part of a "name-and-shame playbook," and dismissed CFPB efforts to hold corporations accountable for consumer abuses. She defended Sprint against allegations brought by CFPB and the Federal Communications Commission related to unauthorized third-party charges and represented banks accused of violating anti-money laundering laws (*Consumer Financial Protection Bureau v. Sprint Corp.*).

In one case, Rodriguez defended Truist Bank against claims brought by a whistleblower executive who alleged the bank failed to report suspicious wire transfers and allowed accounts linked to criminal activity to remain open (*Denise WHITING, Plaintiff, v. TRUIST BANK f/k/a Branch Banking and Trust Company, Defendant*). Rather than addressing systemic fraud, the bank allegedly retaliated against the executive, demoting and ultimately firing her. Rodriguez's role in these cases demonstrates a pattern of minimizing consumer harm while protecting the interests of powerful financial actors.

UNDERMINING LABOR PROTECTIONS FOR IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

Rodriguez also defended corporate employers accused of discrimination against immigrant workers. In *Verdesi v. Ark Rustic Inn, LLC*, she helped a restaurant chain dismiss a discrimination claim brought by an employee based on a technicality — that the worker had not applied for naturalization within the six-month statutory time frame when he turned 18. By prioritizing procedural defenses over the substance of the worker's claims, Rodriguez reinforced employer power while narrowing protections for immigrant workers in the labor market.

SUSAN RODRIGUEZ

STAUNCH CONSERVATIVE ADVOCACY

Rodriguez's leadership role on the board of *Mira Via* underscores her alignment with organizations that oppose reproductive rights. Mira Via explicitly affirms life "from the moment of conception," situating Rodriguez firmly within the anti-abortion movement. Her long membership in the Federalist Society and Republican National Lawyers Association further underscores her alignment with conservative legal networks committed to rolling back reproductive freedom, LGBTQ+ rights, and other substantive constitutional protections.

A JUDICIAL RECORD RULING AGAINST WORKERS, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND YOUTH PLAINTIFFS

Since joining the bench, Rodriguez has issued rulings that repeatedly favor corporations, law enforcement, and institutions over individuals seeking relief. In *Rodriguez v. Wipro Ltd.*, she ruled against a whistleblower who raised concerns about corporate conflicts of interest and later suffered retaliation that exacerbated serious health conditions, dismissing the case for failure to exhaust administrative remedies. In *Puranda v. City of Charlotte*, she dismissed a civil rights case brought by an 18-year-old subjected to an aggressive traffic stop, where officers allegedly drew weapons, forcibly removed him from his car, and detained him without cause. In *Robey v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education*, she rejected claims brought by parents whose child had repeatedly disclosed self-harm to a school counselor who failed to notify them, ultimately leading to a hospitalization. In each of these cases, Rodriguez prioritized institutional protection over the workers, children, and their families who simply wanted justice when they were hurt.