

Nicholas J. Ganjei, nominated to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, currently serves as a United States Attorney for the Southern District of Texas. Not only has Ganjei worked for Senator Ted Cruz as his judicial nominations point, his extensive ties to several extreme right-wing organizations also call into question his ability to serve as a fair and impartial member of our country's judiciary.

For nearly two decades, Ganjei has aligned himself with many right-wing activist groups funded by far-right funders like the Koch Foundation and Thomas Klingenstein. These organizations, including the Manhattan Institute, Claremont Institute, Hillsdale College, and The Federalist Society, share a long history of strategically advancing far right-agendas by using the courts and Congress to attack civil rights and liberties, LGBTQ+ rights, access to reproductive care, and voting rights.

As the top-ranking law enforcement official for the Southern District of Texas, Ganjei has celebrated the Trump DHS's dehumanizing social media clips, and re-shared the administration's xenophobic and racist ICE rhetoric. Ganjei's press releases repeatedly use the phrase "illegal aliens" and other derogatory language to describe undocumented individuals.

The rhetoric Ganjei uses to dehumanize and attack marginalized communities coupled with his ties to extremist ideologies undermine the independence and impartiality necessary for a lifetime appointment on the federal bench.

DEEP TIES TO RIGHT WING ACTIVIST ORGANIZATIONS

Ganjei has ties to several right-wing organizations that have worked for decades to handpick partisan judges who are not independent or fair-minded. Just last year Ganjei held a fellowship at the Manhattan Institute, a group funded largely by major corporations, Big Oil and Gas, and conservative foundations. Manhattan Institute regularly argues for regressive policies, including stripping funding from the public school system and privatizing key social services. Ganjei has also served as a fellow at Hillsdale College, which has been flagged by the Princeton Review as one of the worst colleges in the country for LGBTQ+ students. He was a Lincoln Fellow at the Claremont Institute, what some have labeled an "anti-democracy think tank" that supported Trump's 2020 efforts to overturn the election.

Ganjei has been a member of the Federalist Society for over 17 years, and he has served an active role in their programming, both as a panelist and a moderator in a number of events around the country. Ganjei also appeared as a panelist for the American Compass, a think tank "charting the course for conservative economics," that has ties to JD Vance and Marco Rubio. Trump is insistent on creating a federal judiciary full of loyalists, and Ganjei's nomination is yet another example of a nominee who is deeply involved in conservative politics and extremely partisan ideological institutions.

NICHOLAS GANJEI

ANTI-CIVIL RIGHTS AND ANTI-IMMIGRANT

While in law school, Ganjei worked for John Yoo, the author of the leaked “torture memos” that were used by the Bush administration to justify aggressive and illegal torture techniques. Yoo’s memos were also used to keep United States officials from being charged with war crimes for the torture and abuse that took place under United States supervision. While faculty and the student body at the University of California, Berkeley called for Yoo’s dismissal as a law professor based on these torture memos, Ganjei defended Yoo, sharing with local media that he felt the calls for Yoo’s dismissal were “disingenuous...” (National Jurist, October 2004).

From the beginning, Ganjei demonstrated unwavering support for a figure that violated the civil rights of many, alongside his efforts to stand against university efforts to dole out consequences for reckless legal work. Such actions and beliefs are concerning, as he has been nominated for a position that will oversee the enforcement of civil rights and liberties for thousands.

Ganjei has also regularly used racist rhetoric, employing phrases like “illegal alien” in his press releases as part of arrests tied to Trump’s Operation Take Back America, which prioritizes “repelling the invasion of illegal immigration” and “restoring the death penalty.” Ganjei has also repeatedly retweeted the Trump administration’s ICE propaganda, indicating support for Trump’s authoritarian immigration agenda, focused on denying thousands due process and violating long-standing immigration protections.