

November 17, 2025

Senator Charles Grassley
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee

Senator Richard Durbin
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin,

We are highly concerned about the nomination of William “Will” Jerrol Crain for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. Crain’s Louisiana Supreme Court record reveals such extreme views, that we are concerned he would not serve as a fair and impartial jurist fit for a lifetime appointment on the federal bench.

Previously, Crain emphasized anti-abortion and pro-gun positions, signalling a willingness to let personal beliefs dictate his interpretation of the law. His record also reflects his very extreme right wing beliefs. Crain overwhelmingly sides against defendants’ rights, shields corporations from accountability, and even broke off from his Louisiana Supreme Court colleagues to push for an even faster implementation of Louisiana's abortion trigger ban. A lifetime appointment to the federal bench would award Crain with decades to entrench his ideological agenda into the law, rather than uphold the Constitution’s promise of equal justice

Crain almost always sides with the prosecution, even dissenting from the rest of the state supreme court in criminal defense cases, at the expense of a just and fair process for defendants. When the rest of the Louisiana Supreme Court held that individuals seeking medical help should be protected from drug-related prosecution, Crain dissented and rejected protections under state law. ([State v. Quandarious Rowe, La. Dec. 9, 2022](#)) Crain dissented from the Louisiana Supreme Court vacating a life sentence after the court found ineffective assistance of counsel. ([State v. Kevin O'Brien Allen](#)). He dissented from the Louisiana Supreme Court’s holding that a defendant was entitled to review of a probation revocation, finding that his motion to correct an illegal sentence was a timely post-conviction request. ([State v. Derrick Broussard](#))

Crain is emphatically opposed to abortion, a perspective that is reflected in his extreme dissents. When the Louisiana Supreme Court closed off opportunities for further challenges to a lower court issued injunction of an abortion “trigger” ban which allowed Louisiana abortion clinics to temporarily continue operating, Justice Crain dissented, favoring further review of the injunction in order to stop it. He noted, “...whether these doctors will suffer irreparable harm by being prohibited from performing abortions is debatable, terminating alleged life during the period of the temporary restraining order is irreparable.”([June Medical Services, LLC v. Landry](#))

Crain opposed allowing individuals to hold corporations accountable for corporate misconduct. Crain dissented from the Louisiana Supreme Court's holding that landowners have standing to hold oil and gas companies accountable for breaking the law. Justin Tureau owned two parcels of land that were contaminated by previous oil and gas exploration and production activities. The companies' activities were alleged to have released toxic substances that caused extensive environmental damage and harmed Tureau's land and legal interests. Again, breaking away from his state supreme court colleagues, Justice Crain dissented, opposing the recognition of citizen suits in this context. ([*State ex rel. Tureau v. BEPCO, L.P.*](#))

These are just a few examples of Crain's extreme rulings. We are concerned he will not serve the people of Louisiana, but would instead use the bench to further an extreme right wing agenda that does not uphold the rule of law, sides of corporations of everyday people, and cuts off their civil liberties. As organizations based in Louisiana, which will be directly impacted by this nomination, we hope that you will keep our concerns in mind as you deliberate on whether to confirm William Crain to a lifetime seat on the Eastern District of Louisiana

Sincerely,

10,000 Women Louisiana
Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center
Louisiana Center for Children's Rights
Promise of Justice Initiative
Reproductive Freedom for All