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PRESIDENT

**Rachel Rossi**

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May 19, 2026

Senator Charles Grassley  
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee

Senator Richard Durbin  
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin,

On behalf of the Alliance for Justice (AFJ), a national association representing nearly 140 public interest and civil rights organizations, we firmly urge you and your colleagues on the Senate Judiciary Committee to reject the nomination of Matthew Schwartz to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Schwartz has spent his career ensuring billionaires can expand their net worths at the expense of working families and shielding corporations from accountability for their wrongdoing. Schwartz has also expressed extreme viewpoints undermining racial justice, attacking same-sex marriage, and demeaning individuals seeking reproductive care. If confirmed to a lifetime seat on the federal judiciary, Schwartz will likely continue his lifelong work of protecting the richest among us while expressing disdain for civil rights and civil liberties.

Schwartz has personally represented President Trump, his sons, and several Trump-affiliated organizations in both criminal and civil cases. Like D. John Sauer, Emil Bove, Justin Smith, Todd Blanche, and Will Scharf, Schwartz's nomination is yet another example of a former Trump personal lawyer appointed to a significant position within the Trump administration or confirmed to the federal judiciary. Schwartz's demonstrated loyalty to Trump raises serious doubts about his ability to exercise the independence necessary for a lifetime role as a circuit court judge for the Second Circuit.

Trump is not the only notorious billionaire Schwartz works for – he also helped reinstate Elon Musk's unprecedented \$50 billion compensation package which a Delaware judge had initially voided due to lack of shareholder disclosures and conflicts of interest concerns.

When not working to further enrich billionaires, Schwartz also defends Wall Street banks engaged in misconduct. In *Saint-Jean v. Emigrant Mortg. Co.* (2d Cir. 2025), Schwartz tried to undo a judgment entered against Emigrant, a company that targeted Black and Latino homeowners in poor neighborhoods for high-risk refinancing loans with steep default interest rates, marketing them to borrowers with “no income, no assets, and low credit scores but high equity in their homes” (in order to pursue foreclosure after their loan defaults). In Schwartz’s petition for certiorari asking the Supreme Court to overturn the decision, he argued for the elimination of disparate impact to establish housing discrimination, citing Trump’s 2025 executive order that revealed the administration’s goal of “eliminat[ing] the use of disparate-impact liability in all contexts to the maximum degree possible.”

Schwartz’s concerning views on racial justice were confirmed in a Wall Street Journal op-ed, where Schwartz argued that conservatives, and not members of historically marginalized communities, are the true victims of discrimination on law school campuses. He suggested that instead of DEI “preferences . . . needed to make up for egregious past discrimination,” more action should be taken to address the alleged “gross viewpoint disparities on faculties.”

Additionally, while attending Princeton, Schwartz lambasted the university’s decision to allow two gay former alums to be married in the Princeton Chapel. He authored an article in the Princeton Tory that vehemently attacked the LGBTQ+ community’s efforts to legalize gay marriage and the “crusade” for “its misconceived notion of equal rights.” He criticized the LGBTQ+ movement’s effort to “force” acceptance of gay marriage through “numerous public displays.” Schwartz also passionately argued that same-sex couples do not benefit society and therefore do not deserve the benefits that come from a state-recognized marriage. Disturbingly, Schwartz even questioned whether gay couples should be allowed to adopt children and their ability “to raise children that are as emotionally, psychologically, and spiritually healthy as children of heterosexual parents.”

Schwartz’s many documented biases and hostility towards LGBTQ+ individuals, people of color, and working families living paycheck to paycheck, exemplify a lack of independence, fitness, and fortitude for a lifetime role on the federal judiciary. For these reasons, Alliance for Justice strongly opposes the confirmation of Matthew Schwartz to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel Rossi".

Rachel Rossi  
President, Alliance for Justice