

# MIKE HENDERSHOT



UNFIT & UNQUALIFIED

Mike Hendershot, nominated for the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio spent his legal career consistently prioritizing the interests of the rich and powerful over working-class people. He weaponized government authority to restrict individual rights, and his record raises serious concerns about his ability to serve “We the People” as an impartial, independent, and fair judge.

After graduating from the University of Virginia School of Law in 2001, Hendershot clerked for Judge Jerry Smith of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, who recently penned a conspiracy-theory-riddled dissent in a case challenging Texas’s new gerrymandered congressional district map. Hendershot then worked as an associate at Brown & Bain, where he defended big corporations against securities and consumer-fraud claims. He went on to defend large corporations as an associate at Vorys, Sater, Seymour, and Pease, shielding them from accountability when they harmed individuals in product-liability actions. Hendershot began his tenure at the Ohio Attorney General’s Office in 2011, where he currently serves as chief deputy solicitor general. Since 2019, Hendershot has worked under Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost, one of the most politically active attorneys general in the country.

## **SIDES WITH CORPORATIONS WHEN THEY HARM EVERYDAY PEOPLE**

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Hendershot spent a large portion of his career attempting to shield Fortune 500 corporations from accountability when they harmed everyday people. For example, in Boley v. Goodyear Tire Co. (Ohio 2010), Hendershot successfully limited accountability for Goodyear, despite the company exposing employees to deadly asbestos dust. For ten years, Goodyear pipefitter Clayton Adams consistently worked with asbestos-tainted materials, bringing asbestos dust home on his work clothes. His wife, Mary Adams, was in turn exposed to asbestos when she did his laundry. She was ultimately diagnosed with mesothelioma due to this exposure and died a few months later. Despite there being little doubt Mary’s death ultimately stemmed from Clayton’s exposure to asbestos on Goodyear’s property, Hendershot argued the company’s liability should be limited because Mary was never directly exposed to the asbestos on Goodyear’s premises. The Supreme Court of Ohio ultimately agreed with Hendershot’s position, protecting a large corporation from accountability despite its negligence leading to a woman’s death.

If appointed to a lifetime seat on the federal bench, Hendershot will likely continue to deny justice to individuals harmed by corporate malfeasance.

## WEAPONIZES STATE POWER TO HARM COMMUNITIES

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Since joining the Ohio Attorney General's Office in 2011, Hendershot has consistently weaponized state power to advance extreme positions that disenfranchise the communities he is supposed to be serving. He has used his prestigious leadership role to weaken Ohioans' rights rather than protect them.

- In Ohio v. EPA (2024), Hendershot represented Ohio and a coalition of 16 other Republican-led states in their effort to restrict California's ability to set higher vehicle-emissions standards. If the Court had accepted Hendershot's arguments, car companies would have been able to produce and sell more environmentally harmful vehicles nationwide.
- Hendershot defended Ohio's system of sweeping voter-roll purges in Husted v. A. Philip Randolph Inst. (2018), arguing that Ohio should be allowed to begin the purging process simply because an individual had not voted for two years. In a 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court agreed with Hendershot, paving the way for even more extreme voter-purging laws currently in effect in some states.
- Finally, in State ex rel. Bowling v. Dewine (Ohio 2022), Hendershot defended Ohio Governor Mike Dewine's decision to end CARES Act unemployment payments in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. An Ohio state court of appeals ruled against Dewine in 2025, resulting in the potential release of \$900 million worth of withheld payments.

Hendershot's consistent violations of the public trust disqualify him from a federal judgeship.