

August 3, 2026

Senator Charles Grassley
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee

Senator Richard Durbin
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin,

We, the more than two dozen undersigned national and state organizations advocating for civil rights, gender equality, reproductive justice, economic justice, workers' rights, environmental justice, and democratic accountability, previously opposed the nomination of Anna St. John for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. Mere months later, we are writing now to oppose St. John's nomination to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. We share the same concerns flagged previously but are also troubled by the speed with which she was elevated to a Fifth Circuit nomination, coupled with her inability to admit that President Biden won the 2020 election — only that he was “certified” the winner. For these reasons, we urge you to reject her nomination to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

St. John has a history of silencing women, attacking LGBTQ+ rights, and cutting off corporate accountability for everyday people. Until her recent confirmation to the Eastern District of Louisiana, she led the Hamilton Legal Law Institute (HLLI), a far-right extremist organization that routinely files lawsuits to attack civil rights, undermine consumer protections, eliminate gender equality, and deny basic human rights. In this role, St. John consistently sided with large corporations over consumers and workers.

Despite claiming to be a “consumer advocate,” St. John actually spent years defending big corporations when they hurt people. After working in a large law firm, she moved on to lead the so-called Center for Class Action Fairness (CCAF), an organization founded to restrict and attack class action settlements when corporations are held accountable for misconduct. CCAF was a sub-unit of the Competitive Enterprise Institute, whose funding comes from [millions in “charitable” contributions](#) from Koch family foundations, *The American Conservative*, Monsanto, the American Bankers Association, and the Exxon-Mobil Corporation. Class actions are one of the few meaningful avenues for everyday people to challenge corporate wrongdoing that makes life less affordable. Undermining this legitimate legal process would further erode the public's trust in a judicial system that increasingly favors [corporations](#) and the [wealthy](#) over ordinary Americans.

In 2021, she testified against victims of sexual harassment and assault and in support of forced arbitration in a hearing on the “Ending Forced Arbitration for Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment” Act. Many members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, including both of you, co-sponsored this bipartisan legislation back when forced arbitration was used to keep thousands of women from sharing their experiences when they were sexually harassed and sexually

assaulted. The wealthy and the powerful continue to weaponize forced arbitration as a way to hide wrongdoing and avoid accountability.

St. John has also authored and co-authored numerous amicus briefs undermining LGBTQ+ rights. In [*303 Creative LLC v. Elenis*](#), St. John supported allowing businesses to discriminate against LGBTQ+ individuals under the guise of religious freedom. Similarly, in [*Green v. Miss USA*](#), St. John supported banning transgender women from the Miss USA pageant as it “would infringe upon the *pageant’s* rights” (emphasis added). St. John has also supported banning transgender women and girls from sports teams and misgendered them in her briefs. St. John’s message is clear: LGBTQ+ people don’t deserve the same respect or access to the same goods and services that non-LGBTQ+ people receive.

St. John actively undermined racial justice, and filed briefs that argued against schools allowing race to factor into admissions considerations in [*Fair Admissions v. Harvard*](#). She is also involved in litigation that attacked diversity, equity, and inclusion policies in [*National Association of Scholars v. United States Department of Energy et al*](#) and [*State of New York et al v. National Science Foundation et al.*](#)

For these reasons, we oppose Anna St. John’s nomination for the Fifth Circuit. Elevating her to this even more powerful perch could negatively impact not only the communities covered by the Eastern District of Louisiana, but now also those living and working in all of the states covered by the Fifth Circuit, which include Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. The public deserves a judge with a demonstrated record of fairness, equality, and respect for the law. Anna St. John’s career and conduct do not exhibit these qualities, and she is unfit and unqualified for this lifetime appointment.

Thank you for your consideration,

Alliance for Justice
Black Voters Matter Fund
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
Center for Justice & Democracy
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues
Equality California
Feminist Majority Foundation
Freedom From Religion Foundation
Just Solutions
interACT: Advocates for Intersex Youth
Lambda Legal
League of Conservation Voters
Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center
National Action Network
National Association of Consumer Advocates
National Council of Jewish Women
National Women's Political Caucus

NBJC

Oasis Legal Services

People For the American Way

People's Parity Project

Planned Parenthood Action Fund

Reproductive Freedom for All

Safer Country

Silver State Equality

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

True North Research