

COURTNEY COKER

Courtney Coker, nominated for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, has spent nearly his entire legal career as a federal prosecutor. Instead of a demonstrated commitment to fairness and equal protection for all, Coker proudly highlights what he considers two crowning achievements: first, leading and organizing efforts to carry out the largest ICE raid in United States history, and second, leading and organizing efforts to implement Project EJECT, which diverted state prosecutions to federal prosecutions in the majority-Black city of Jackson, Mississippi.

Both Project EJECT and the Mississippi ICE raids weaponized federal power to hurt and destroy marginalized communities, including workers and immigrants. More recently, Coker is also listed by name in a [brief that asked the Fifth Circuit](#) to deny corporate accountability for the deaths of 346 passengers who died in two separate 737 MAX aircraft crashes, caused in part by Boeing's undisclosed changes to the aircraft's MCAS flight-control software.

Coker has used his prosecutorial power to invoke lasting harm to marginalized communities while also fighting to let corporate wrongdoers off the hook. Coker does not demonstrate a commitment to fairness and equality for all. If confirmed, Coker would bring these significant anti-immigrant, anti-defendant, and anti-consumer biases straight from his powerful prosecutorial perch with the Northern District of Texas U.S. Attorney's office to the federal bench in that same district. As such, he is unfit and unqualified for a lifetime role on the bench of the Northern District of Texas, and his nomination should be rejected.

MASTERMINDED LARGEST ICE RAID IN U.S. HISTORY

Coker considers his leadership and involvement in the 2019 Mississippi ICE raids as one of his "most significant legal activities," carried out when he served as the criminal chief for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Mississippi. The infamous Mississippi ICE raids, which took place August 7, 2019, are regarded as one of the "largest single-state worksite enforcement action[s]" in U.S. history. On this day, around 600 ICE agents targeted seven poultry plants across Mississippi, which [resulted in the arrests of "680 Indigenous, Latino, and immigrant poultry workers."](#)

Advocacy organizations have described these [ICE raids as retaliatory](#), as the raid hit Mississippi plants where workers recently won a lawsuit for rampant sexual harassment and discrimination. The raids also took place on the first day of school in Mississippi, causing children from impacted families to return home from school to empty houses. Video from local news affiliates showed [kids sobbing outside of a Koch Foods plant](#) as they waited to hear the fate of their parents. Meanwhile, there are no records of company officials being charged with knowingly hiring undocumented workers, despite unsealed search-warrant

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MASTERMINDED LARGEST ICE RAID IN U.S. HISTORY (CONTINUED)

affidavits showing six out of the seven targeted plants were “willfully and unlawfully” employing unauthorized workers. Some managers even knew their workers wore ICE ankle monitors to their shifts and used fraudulent Social Security numbers. A full year also passed before four mid-level employees were finally charged. No owner or executive at any of the companies were charged with any crimes. Indeed, a one-year retrospective of these raids called it a “grave imbalance,” as the poultry plants faced few penalties while immigrant families suffered.

To date, raid survivors continue to be prioritized for removal and denied discretionary immigration relief precisely because of the convictions stemming from the raids, even after the Department of Homeland Security’s October 2021 worksite-enforcement memo acknowledged these raids “were used as a tool by exploitive employers to suppress and retaliate against workers’ assertion of labor laws.”

LED CONTROVERSIAL “PROJECT EJECT”

As his second self-identified “significant legal activity,” Coker names his work planning, facilitating, and implementing Project EJECT, a controversial DOJ initiative that essentially federalized local gun and drug cases in majority-Black Jackson, Mississippi. While the DOJ claimed the program helped reduce violent crime, other experts reported Project EJECT only managed to secure longer sentences and sent convicted residents to federal prisons far away from Mississippi.

Defense attorney Adolfo Minka wrote that EJECT amounted to the criminalization of Jackson’s poorest and most vulnerable communities through a racist and elitist program. Violence-prevention experts also shared that such task forces are largely a waste of time for reducing violence. Indeed, by January 2022, three years after the start of Project EJECT, then-incoming U.S. Attorney Darren LaMarca announced another new gun initiative because homicide levels had increased to record levels in the preceding two years.

Tellingly, Coker misnames Project EJECT’s acronym in his Senate Judiciary Questionnaire, referring to it as the “Empower *Justice* Expel Crime Together” when it should stand for “Empower *Jackson* Expel Crime Together” (emphasis added). Instead of empowering the majority-Black residents of Jackson, Mississippi, this initiative produced long sentences, with 100 arrests in 2019 turning into a combined 286 years in federal prison.

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OPPOSED ACCOUNTABILITY FOR 346 PEOPLE KILLED IN BOEING PLANE CRASHES

In December 2025, Coker signed the United States' Fifth Circuit brief in *In re Naoise Connolly Ryan*, asking the Fifth Circuit to deny 31 families further relief and criminal accountability for the deaths of 346 loved ones killed in two different Boeing 737 MAX aircraft crashes in October 2018 and March 2019. The Fifth Circuit found both crashes "were caused by pilots' unfamiliarity with Boeing's changes to the 737 MAX's Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System," which had not been disclosed by Boeing.

Under the Biden administration, the DOJ had charged Boeing with conspiracy to defraud the United States and simultaneously filed a deferred prosecution agreement. By May 2025, the Trump DOJ and Boeing signed a non-prosecution agreement (NPA) instead. It also moved to dismiss Boeing's felony charge outright. Chief Judge Reed O'Connor granted the dismissal in November 2025, wiping Boeing clean of any criminal convictions.

Family members of the crash victims subsequently challenged the NPA and the district court's dismissal under the Crime Victims' Rights Act (CVRA). Instead of supporting these families and advocating for full criminal accountability, Coker signed his name on a brief that characterized the families' requests for accountability under the CVRA as allowing victims to "micromanage a prosecution."

Under its previous agreement with the DOJ, Boeing would have pled guilty to a felony of conspiracy to defraud the government, subjecting it to an independent third-party monitor and increased scrutiny from contracting agencies. Due to the dropped case, these accountability and protections are no longer in place all while Boeing continues to serve as a major contractor for the United States military and NASA.