



September 24, 2025

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chair
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington D.C. 20510

RE: Lambda Legal Opposes the Nomination of Jordan Pratt for the District Court for the Middle District of Florida

Dear Senator:

Lambda Legal urges you to oppose the nomination of Judge Jordan Pratt to be a district court judge for the Middle District of Florida. Founded in 1973, Lambda Legal is the oldest and largest national legal organization dedicated to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people (LGBTQ+) and everyone living with HIV, through impact litigation, policy advocacy, and public education.

Nearly 900,000 LGBTQ+ people live in Florida.¹ Consequently, the views of this nominee on the equal dignity of LGBTQ+ people and their families are highly relevant to whether LGBTQ+ people living in the state will receive fair and impartial justice if Judge Pratt is confirmed to the Middle District of Florida.

After carefully reviewing Judge Pratt's record, we believe his views, particularly with respect to civil rights issues, reflect a deep hostility to the principles of equality, liberty, justice and dignity under the law for LGBTQ+ people and others seeking to vindicate their civil rights. He is an anti-LGBTQ+ and anti-abortion activist whose work targets those who do not live according to his particular social and religious beliefs. Accordingly, we do not believe he will provide impartial justice to LGBTQ+ people and their families. Judge Pratt is not qualified for this lifetime position.

¹ Andrew R. Flores & Keith J. Conron, *Adult LGBT Population in the United States*, The Williams Institute (December 2023), available at <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/adult-lgbt-pop-us/>.





Judge Pratt was appointed by Governor Ron DeSantis in April 2023 to Florida’s Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal. In May 2025, Judge Pratt authored an opinion in *Doe v. Uthmeier*², a case regarding a trial court judge’s determination that a minor did not have the maturity to seek an abortion without her parent’s consent. Pratt’s opinion went beyond the scope of the appeal and struck down the entire law that allows minors to seek an abortion without parental notification, finding the judicial bypass process unconstitutional under the Florida constitution. This decision blocks access to abortion for many young people who need this health care. Judge Pratt’s anti-abortion advocacy on the bench is unsurprising given his advocacy against abortion access prior to his appointment to the court and his beliefs that his faith should inform his work. In an amicus brief to the Supreme Court of Florida, drafted by Pratt and his wife before his appointment to the bench, abortion is described as “barbaric” and “one of the most severe invasions of personal rights imaginable.”³ Judge Jordan Pratt has clearly shown that he will bring his beliefs and advocacy to his role as a judge rather than remain unbiased and decide each case based on the facts and law.

Prior to his current judicial appointment, Judge Pratt was senior counsel at First Liberty Institute, an organization that says it is “the largest legal organization in the nation dedicated *exclusively* to defending religious liberty for all Americans.”⁴ In fact, it is an organization that is well-known to be anti-LGBTQ+. It advocates for teachers who wish to misgender their students, medical providers who discriminate against transgender patients, and bakers who won’t serve LGBTQ+ people.⁵ Judge Pratt was lead counsel in an employment case involving a physician’s assistant who would not use correct pronouns for transgender patients and refused to be involved in gender affirming health care, including a refusal to refer patients for appropriate gender affirming surgical care. In press, Judge Pratt called using the correct pronouns for transgender people “biology-obscuring” and said that gender affirming health care consists of “experimental drugs and procedures.”⁶ Decades of research show this is not true.

Judge Pratt was also a fellow at the Alliance Defending Freedom (“ADF”) in both 2010 and 2014, participating in the Blackstone Fellowship as both student and mentor. This fellowship is for Christian law students and is aimed at inspiring “them to reimagine their careers as a way of serving God.”⁷ ADF believes that “government policy should reflect the truth about God’s created order: that biological differences between men and women matter, that marriage is the

² *Doe v. Uthmeier*, No. D2025-1363, 2025 WL 1386707 (Fla. 5th DCA May 14, 2025).

³ [Brief](#) of Amicus Curiae National Institute of Family and Life Advocates in Support of Respondents, *Planned Parenthood of Sw. and Cent. Fla. v. State*, No. SC2022-1050 & SC2022-1127 (Fla. Apr. 6, 2023).

⁴ First Liberty Institute, *About Us*, <https://firstliberty.org/about-us/> (emphasis in original).

⁵ See, First Liberty Institute, *Featured Cases*, <https://firstliberty.org/featured-cases/>.

⁶ First Liberty Institute, *Physician Assistant Fired by Michigan Health Because She Requested Religious Accommodation for Her Beliefs about Gender* (press release) (Sept. 27, 2022) available at <https://firstliberty.org/media/physician-assistant-fired-by-michigan-health-because-she-requested-religious-accommodation-for-her-beliefs-about-gender/>.

⁷ See, <https://blackstonelegalfellowship.org/>





union of one man and one woman, and that children are best cared for by their moms and dads.”⁸ This group that trained Judge Pratt in the law, is explicitly anti-LGBTQ+ and has been labeled a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center.⁹

Not only was Judge Pratt affiliated with anti-LGBTQ+ organizations and litigation, but he has also written about his belief that some colleges and universities have forgotten about religious freedom as they “begin to require their professors to pledge allegiance to a new orthodoxy: gender identity theory.”¹⁰ In writing about protecting professors’ ability to misgender students, Judge Pratt shows no care for transgender and nonbinary students who are harmed by professors who refuse to acknowledge who they are.

Judge Pratt’s anti-LGBTQ+ and broader anti-civil rights agenda has no place on the federal courts. The people of Florida are already seeing what happens when a judge brings their own personal beliefs and advocacy work to their job on the bench. Judge Pratt should not be given a lifetime position at the federal level to allow him to do even more damage to our civil rights. We urge you to vote against his confirmation.

Thank you for considering our views on this important matter. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can provide additional information throughout the confirmation process. You can reach us through Ethan Rice, Senior Attorney, erice@lambdalegal.org or (850) 320-4006.

Sincerely,

Lambda Legal

⁸ Alliance Defending Freedom, *Issues: Marriage & Family*, <https://adfflegal.org/issues/marriage/>.

⁹ Southern Poverty Law Center, *Alliance Defending Freedom*, <https://www.splcenter.org/resources/extremist-files/alliance-defending-freedom/>.

¹⁰ Jordan Pratt, *A Tale of Two Colleges: The Right Way (and the Wrong Way) to Handle the Gender Debate*, *The Western Journal* (Apr. 28, 2022), <https://www.westernjournal.com/tale-two-colleges-right-way-wrong-way-handle-gender-debate/>.

