

Stephen R. Clark -- Talking Points Memo -- For E-mails and Office Visits with Senator's Staff

We're asking the Senator to vote against the nomination of **Stephen R. Clark** for a lifetime judgeship in federal district court (Eastern District court of Missouri). Clark has an extremely partisan history as a leader in the right-to-life movement. He is also an outspoken opponent of same-sex marriage equality.

- Clark described medical schools that partner with Planned Parenthood as "training the abortionists of the future."
- He has counseled right-to-life groups on obstructionist tactics against abortion providers for so-called "coerced abortions."
- In a lawsuit against contraceptives coverage under the Affordable Care Act, Clark used misinformation from medical advisors who said that using contraceptives leads to "increased risk-taking and sexual behavior." These medical advisors have been debunked for their unproven theories.
- Until last year Clark was a director of Lawyers for Life, a right-to-life group. Their newsletter said "*Roe v. Wade* gave doctors a license to kill the unborn," and that *Roe v. Wade* was "bad law."
- An opponent of same-sex marriage, Clark has said "one of the next evolutions of same-sex marriage is polygamy."

Now that he is being considered for a lifetime federal judgeship, Clark has tried to walk back from these inflammatory and/or bigoted statements. He claims he can be an impartial and objective judge to follow *Roe v. Wade*. Yet his 180-degree turnaround defies common sense.

We doubt that Stephen R. Clark can put aside his history of extreme partisanship and we're worried that he will be a biased judge. We're afraid that as a federal judge he will weaken our Constitutional protections for a woman's right to choose and same-sex marriage equality. For these reasons we're asking the Senator to vote against Stephen R. Clark's nomination for this lifetime judgeship.

Possible Response from Senator's Staff:

"Stephen Clark was acting as an advocate for his clients when he made those statements. Also, he didn't write the statements that appeared in the Lawyers for Life newsletter."

Stephen Clark was a speaker on a panel when he made those statements. He was not representing a client in a courtroom. As an attorney he chose to counsel groups on obstructionist tactics against abortion providers. He also failed to vet his brief properly for misinformation by debunked medical advisors. While Clark did not write the text of the Lawyers for Life newsletter, his name appeared on the masthead as an officer of the organization. He must have known about the material in the newsletter and agreed with it, and he has never repudiated it. Clark has tried to backtrack on these statements, but in all instances he was the person in charge: the speaker on the panel, the lawyer writing the brief, or the director of the organization.

More Info:

Stephen Clark's record on pro-choice rights, [NARAL](#)

Report on Stephen Clark, [Vetting Room](#)

Clark's history as right-wing partisan, Senate Judiciary Committee [Hearing 7/11/18](#)