

Biden Judges Against Government Misconduct and Mistreatment

For a democracy to remain strong, government employees must comply with the laws. In nations where officials engage in abusive misconduct with impunity, people are not truly free. The courts play a vital role in holding officials accountable. We need fair-minded judges who understand the importance of protecting the rights of all people. The judges that President Biden has named are making a difference in the lives of victims of government officials' misconduct. Their rulings are also setting precedents that protect all of us.

False Criminal Charges

For instance, environmental activist Rosalie Chilcoat sued county officials in Utah for filing criminal charges against her as retaliation for her political activity. A trial court dismissed her case, and she appealed. Tenth Circuit Judge Veronica Rossman wrote the opinion letting her lawsuit proceed, over the dissent of a Trump judge. This case sets up important protections for people engaged in political activity challenging those in power.

Threat from a Town Commissioner

Patricia MacIntosh faced retaliation of a different sort: She attended a virtual meeting of the Travis County (Michigan) Commission and asked them to condemn the Proud Boys and other violent groups. In response, a commissioner took out a high-powered rifle, showed it to the camera, and smirked. She sued the commissioner for intimidating her and trying to violate her freedom of speech. Sixth Circuit Judge Stephanie Davis cast the deciding vote rejecting the commissioner's effort to dismiss the case.



Lies from a Fire Inspector

Michael Borochoy claimed he was targeted for his religion, rather than his politics. He and his company were harmed when a Honolulu fire inspector falsely told a client of Borochoy that he had failed an inspection. There was evidence that the inspector had been motivated by anti-Semitism. Biden Ninth Circuit Judge Gabriel Sanchez cast the deciding vote to let Borochoy sue the inspector, over the dissent of a Trump judge.



Unfair Dismissal of Graduate Student

Arebe Taylor's case involved racial motivations for mistreatment. An immigrant originally from Sierra Leone, Taylor was a public health graduate student at the University of Georgia. Two faculty members failed to assign him a faculty advisory committee, then dismissed him from the program altogether. He sued, and Northern District of Georgia Judge Sarah Geraghty ruled that he had enough evidence of racial discrimination to proceed to trial.



Tainted Appeals Process

Troy Ray Emanuel became the victim of a tainted appeals process. After he was sentenced to 35 years, he claimed that his two defense lawyers had given him ineffective assistance of counsel. When he appealed the sentence, the state court appointed one of those same lawyers to represent him. This created a severe conflict of interest. The lawyer filed an appeal for Emanuel that left out any mention of his own poor representation. Ninth Circuit Judge Lucy Koh allowed Emanuel to file a federal lawsuit against this tainted process, over the dissent of a Trump judge. Her decision helps promote fairness in appeals of criminal convictions.

These are just a few examples of how Biden judges are giving victims of government misconduct their fair day in court.

