

The Satanic Temple Files A Motion to Disqualify Justice Amy Coney Barrett from Ruling on TST's Supreme Court Abortion Case

TST has filed a motion asking the Supreme Court to disqualify Justice Amy Coney Barrett from ruling on TST's lawsuit challenging Missouri's abortion laws. The motion questions Barrett's ability to remain impartial based on her publicly-expressed religious belief that life begins at conception and her stated opinion that *Roe v. Wade* was a "barbaric" decision that has caused the loss of millions of lives.

The case started when TST member Judy Doe, seeking an abortion in Missouri, was forced to accept literature that asserted the position that life begins at conception and then endure a three-day waiting period that was designed to instill guilt and shame for her decision. TST argued that the imposition of this arbitrary view on when life begins violates our religious beliefs of science and bodily autonomy, and creates an unconstitutional undue burden on Doe's religious practices. The Eighth Circuit Court dismissed the case and held that Missouri's proclamations do not violate Doe's free exercise of religion, even though they are rooted in Catholic dogma. TST appealed their decision to the Supreme Court.

In our motion to disqualify Justice Barrett, we argue that any objective observer could reasonably believe that it is not possible for Justice Barrett to set aside her position on the illegitimacy of abortion to fairly and impartially consider TST's religious beliefs. Among other declarations, in 1998, she wrote in *Catholic Judges in Capital Cases* that "human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception" and that "the law must provide appropriate penal sanctions for every deliberate violation of the child's rights." Federal law states that justice's whose impartiality can be reasonably questioned should recuse themselves from ruling on those cases.

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