

Talking Points

Judicial Ethics and Anti-Corruption Act

National Council of Jewish Women's (NCJW) Message

Judaism's call to pursue justice inspires our work to improve the federal judiciary. Jewish teachings are clear about the importance of unbiased judges as well as fair and impartial courts. With ethics scandals plaguing our courts for decades and reports of questionable behavior by Supreme Court Justices, along with a historic drop in public approval of the Court, it is time to ensure all federal judges are held to the same ethical standards. The Judicial Ethics and Anti-Corruption Act, introduced by Representative Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) and Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), would reinstate the checks and balances needed to ensure a fair and balanced judicial system that fulfills its promise of equal justice under the law. **Congress must pass the Judicial Ethics and Anti-Corruption Act to guarantee accountability within our courts.**

- **The American people are impacted when Supreme Court Justices act in unethical ways.** Currently, Justices on the Supreme Court are not held to the same ethical standards as judges on the lower federal courts. Lack of disclosure, a broken recusal process, and the ability to own conflicted assets has resulted in a historic drop in public trust in the Court last year. Hidden interests, presented through lavish gifts and vacations, diminish the independence and fairness that we expect from the highest court in the nation and impact its legitimacy.
- **Federal judges must be held to the same ethical standards.** Ethical scandals have often been excused with little recourse. From sexual assault to individual stock holdings to overseeing cases that impact one's spouse, actions taken by judges and Justices — and a lack of reaction from the system — has caused the public to lose faith in the judicial branch. The Judicial Ethics and Anti-Corruption Act would modernize judicial ethics laws to ensure the American people can trust the judiciary.
- **The Judicial Ethics and Anti-Corruption Act would make reforms to judicial ethics laws to restore public faith in the court system.** The bill would make several reforms to our nation's judicial ethics laws, including: banning federal judges from owning conflicted assets; strengthening restrictions on judicial gifts and privately funded travel; requiring the Supreme Court to adhere to a binding Code of Conduct; improving disclosure in the federal judiciary; reforming the judicial recusal process; creating new mechanisms for judicial accountability; and restricting courts from sealing public health and safety records.

