

What People Are Saying About Leslie H. Southwick

- Judge Southwick has **respect for all people**:
 - **La’Verne Edney is an African-American partner at a major law firm in Mississippi. Judge Southwick hired her** early in her career at a time **when judges in Mississippi rarely hired African-Americans**. She had this to say about Judge Southwick:
 - “When I finished law school in 1996, I believed that my chances for landing a clerkship were slim because there was only one African-American Court of Appeals judge on the bench at the time and there were very few Caucasian judges during the history of the Mississippi Supreme court or the Court of Appeals...who had ever hired African-American law clerks. In spite of the odds, I applied for a clerkship. **Judge Southwick granted me an interview and hired me that same day**. While Judge Southwick had many applicants to choose from, **he saw that I was qualified for the position and granted me the opportunity.**”
 - “[Judge Southwick] earned a reputation for his well thought out opinions **It did not matter the parties’ affiliation, color, or stature....**”
 - “While I share the sentiments of other African-Americans that the federal judiciary needs to be more diverse, **I believe that Judge Southwick is imminently qualified** for the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals....” (La’Verne Edney, Member, Brunini, Grantham, Grower & Hewes).
 - **Jose Cantu is a life-long member of the Democratic Party**. Jose grew up with Judge Southwick and had this to say about him:
 - “I was a **classmate of Judge Southwick** in high school and knew him very well. I always found him to be **extremely polite and absolutely fair** with everyone.... The Valley has a large Hispanic population.... I remember him **treating everyone fairly and with respect.**”
 - “**Being a Hispanic American**, my immediate and extended family want to voice our **strong disagreement with [the League of United Latin American Citizens].... [We] whole-heartily support the nomination of Judge Southwick.**” (Jose Alberto Cantu).
 - **John Henegan served as Chief of Staff to a Democratic governor of Mississippi** and is a friend of Judge Southwick. He had this to say about Judge Southwick:

- “I am a life long member of the Democratic Party.... **I can not disagree more strongly with the personal attacks that are being made** against [Judge Southwick’s] character, integrity, or fitness for office, or about **his commitment to civil rights for all people regardless of their race, color, sex, creed, religion, or national origin.** It is an abomination that he should have to experience these **unfair and unjust personal attacks** because they are **quite simply untrue....**” (John C. Henegan, Partner, Butler Snow).
 - One **former law clerk** to Judge Southwick had this to say about Judge Southwick: “[O]n the issue of fairness to minorities, I speak from personal experience that Judge Southwick is a **good man** who has been **kind to me for no ulterior reason. I am not from an affluent family and have no political ties...**there were many in my class...with family pedigrees.... Yet, despite all of the typical requirements of the clerkship that I lacked, **Judge Southwick gave me an opportunity**” (Patrick E. Beasley, Attorney).
 - Judge Southwick “**has shown himself to be respectful of others no matter their station in life, their religious convictions, or their ethnic background**” (Jim Rosenblatt, Dean, Miss. College School of Law).
 - Judge Southwick’s “awareness and attention to **promoting fairness and equality** with regard to race and gender are **exemplary**” (Kay Cobb, former Presiding Justice, Supreme Court of Mississippi).
 - “I know that [Judge Southwick] is **not a racist and does not hold racist views.** Such allegations are ludicrous, insulting, and without foundation” (Philip McIntosh, Associate Dean, Miss. College School of Law).
 - Judge Southwick “**spends a great deal of time listening to others**” (Jim Rosenblatt, Dean, Miss. College School of Law).
 - The politically and racially diverse faculty at the Mississippi College School of Law unanimously approved of Judge Southwick as a visiting professor without any note of concern (Philip McIntosh, Associate Dean, Miss. College School of Law).
- Judge Southwick has served his country honorably at home and in Iraq:
 - In Iraq, Judge Southwick “took on the task of **handling the claims of the numerous Iraqi civilians** who had been injured or had property losses due to accidents involving the U.S. military...**many of whom were children, widows, and elderly people....** Leslie always **listened to these Iraqi claimants patiently and treated them with the utmost respect and kindness.** He did this not just out of a sense of duty, but because **he is a genuinely good and**

caring person.” (Norman G. Hortman, Jr., Lt. Col., 155th Separate Armor Brigade; Member, Hortman, Martindale Bassi Robinson & McDaniel).

- Judge Southwick “**could have avoided this risky service...but he chose to fulfill the obligation** for which he had committed” (Jim Rosenblatt, Dean, Miss. College School of Law).
- Judge Southwick “**endured mortar and rocket attacks**, travel through areas plagued with **IEDs**, extremes in temperature, **harsh living conditions**, sometimes bad chow... the typical stuff of Iraq.” (Norman G. Hortman, Jr., Lt. Col., 155th Separate Armor Brigade; Member, Hortman, Martindale Bassi Robinson & McDaniel).
- Judge Southwick has exceptional character and abilities:
 - Judge Southwick is “**a man of intelligence, temperance, and integrity, who has served his country, his state, and his profession honorably and with dignity....**” (Kathryn H. Hester, Shareholder, Watkins Ludlam Winter & Stennis).
 - Judge Southwick “has displayed consistently the **character, leadership, and professionalism necessary** for a federal court of appeals judge” (Jim Rosenblatt, Dean, Miss. College School of Law).
 - “I have known Judge Southwick for almost thirty years. He is a person of **superior intellect, impeccable integrity and admirable temperament**. In short, **Leslie is unusually suited for this position.**” (Robert D. Drinkwater, Member, Brunini, Grantham, Grower & Hewes).
 - Judge Southwick is “**well respected among his peers, thoughtful, fair, hard working, honest, good humored, and patient. In my opinion, he is the finest person you could nominate for the position.**” (Norman G. Hortman, Jr., Member, Hortman Harlow Martindale Bassi Robinson & McDaniel).
 - “Judge Southwick will **uphold the law** and apply it **regardless of his personal views** on a particular subject” (Philip McIntosh, Associate Dean, Miss. College School of Law).
 - Judge Southwick’s “most notable quality [is] his **commitment to following established precedent**. This often require[s] him to **put aside his personal convictions** to uphold his role on the Court.” (Patrick E. Beasley, Attorney and former law clerk to Judge Southwick).
 - Judge Southwick is a “**decent, moral, patriotic, and worthy candidate** to serve on the federal bench” (Watts Ueltschey, Attorney).

- “Judge Southwick’s **scholarship** and **character** are stellar” (Kay Cobb, former Presiding Justice, Supreme Court of Mississippi).
- Judge Southwick is “**fair** and **unbiased** in his decision making.... I can’t imagine a more **qualified person** for the job” (Ken Rogers, Member, Brunini, Grantham, Grower & Hewes).
- “No other lawyer in the State of Mississippi is as **qualified** for the Fifth Circuit position by virtue of **education, experience, intellect, integrity, and temperament** as the Honorable Leslie H. Southwick.... He is simply **one of the finest, most decent, kind, humble, and fair-minded persons** I have ever known regardless of race or gender” (Richard C. Roberts III, Attorney and Former President, Mississippi Bar Association).
- “Judge Southwick is a man of highest **integrity, honor, and intellect**.... I can attest to his **fine character**.... I have not the slightest doubt regarding his **impartiality** and **commitment to fairness**” (Philip McIntosh, Associate Dean, Miss. College School of Law).
- “Lawyers do not come to the bench with all-encompassing experience, but the good ones can and will learn.... Judge Southwick rose to the challenge **by hard work, legal ability and dedication**.... My expectation is that he will continue on this path as a judge” (John Bradley, Professor, Univ. of Miss.).
- Judge Southwick “possesses great intelligence and sound judgment.... [He] is a man of great character and integrity—a man who loves his family, his profession, and his country” (C. York Craig, Jr., Attorney).