



WE ARE THE RESISTANCE

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Letter to the Senate

Demand Judiciary Committee Hearing on SCOTUS Gift Disclosure Failures

Tactic: Congressional Correspondence
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Issue: Supreme Court Ethics — Gift Disclosure Failures
Source: Fix the Court / ProPublica, June 2024

Peaceful · Lawful · Persistent · Collective



TEMPLATE — UNITED STATES SENATE

Use this letter to contact your U.S. Senators. Personalize the bracketed placeholders before sending.

[Today's Date]

The Honorable [Senator's Full Name]

United States Senate

Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator [Last Name],

THE ISSUE

In June 2024, the judicial reform organization Fix the Court published a comprehensive analysis — built on ProPublica's investigative reporting — documenting that Justice Clarence Thomas accepted 103 confirmed gifts worth more than \$2.4 million between 2004 and 2023. That figure represents nearly ten times the value of all gifts received by his colleagues during the same period. Including probable gifts — luxury travel arranged by Texas billionaire Harlan Crow and repeated access to Bohemian Grove — the total reaches approximately \$4.2 million. Of those gifts, Thomas reported only 27 on his mandatory financial disclosures.

Justice Samuel Alito accepted gifts valued at over \$170,000, including private jet travel from hedge fund billionaire Paul Singer — who had active cases before the Court — without subsequently recusing himself.

In November 2023, the Court adopted an ethics code. It has no enforcement mechanism. No external body receives complaints. No independent authority investigates. The justices remain the sole arbiters of their own conduct.

THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- 5 U.S.C. § 13106 requires the Judicial Conference to refer any judge it has reasonable cause to believe willfully filed false financial disclosures to the Attorney General for investigation. Civil penalties reach \$50,000 per violation. The Judicial Conference has not made this referral.
- 28 U.S.C. § 455 mandates recusal — 'shall disqualify' — whenever a justice's impartiality might reasonably be questioned, or when a financial interest of the justice or spouse could be affected by a case's outcome.
- 18 U.S.C. § 1001 prohibits knowingly falsifying any material fact on a document submitted to the federal government. No constitutional provision exempts sitting Supreme Court justices from this statute.



WHAT I AM ASKING

- Schedule and hold a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing examining the documented gift and disclosure record of Justices Thomas and Alito, based on the Fix the Court analysis and ProPublica reporting.
- Introduce or cosponsor binding Supreme Court ethics legislation that establishes an external enforcement body with genuine investigative and disciplinary authority — not a code the justices administer themselves.
- Support the Supreme Court Ethics, Recusal, and Transparency (SCERT) Act or equivalent legislation mandating enforceable disclosure and independent recusal review.
- Demand that the Judicial Conference fulfill its obligation under 5 U.S.C. § 13106 and refer the documented disclosure failures of Justices Thomas and Alito to the Attorney General.

Senator Durbin's 2023 invitation to Chief Justice Roberts was appropriate and was refused. The Senate's appropriate response to that refusal is not acceptance — it is the exercise of the powers this chamber holds. The Senate confirmed these justices. It has standing, and responsibility, to demand they operate under the same ethical standards applied to every other federal judge in the country.

Every accountability mechanism has been available and unused. The Judicial Conference has not made a referral. The Department of Justice has not acted. The Court's ethics code answers to no external authority. What remains is Congress — specifically, this chamber. I am asking you to use it.

[Your Name]

[Your City, State]

[Your Email (optional)]

[Your Phone (optional)]

SUBMISSION GUIDANCE

- Find your U.S. Senators: senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm
- Submit via each Senator's official contact form or mail to their state office.
- Send to both of your state's Senators — they may differ in committee assignment and leverage.
- Personalize the opening paragraph with a sentence connecting this issue to your experience or your state.
- Log your action at the `Actions_log.xlsx` in the project Drive folder.

Source: Fix the Court, 'A Staggering Tally,' June 6, 2024 (fixthecourt.com) | ProPublica SCOTUS investigation (propublica.org)