

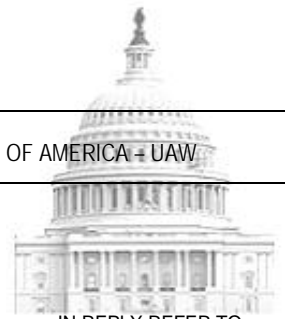


INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA - UAW

RON GETTELFINGER, President

ELIZABETH BUNN, Secretary-Treasurer

VICE PRESIDENTS: GENERAL HOLIEFIELD • BOB KING • CAL RAPSON • JIMMY SETTLES • TERRY THURMAN



IN REPLY REFER TO

1757 N STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036
TELEPHONE: (202) 828-8500
FAX (202) 293-3457

June 11, 2007

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Specter:

The Judiciary Committee may soon take up the nomination of Judge Leslie H. Southwick to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. After reviewing Judge Southwick's record, the UAW believes his confirmation would significantly endanger core worker and civil rights protections. Thus, the UAW urges the Committee to reject his nomination.

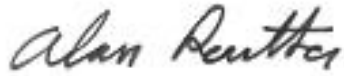
Unfortunately, we believe Judge Southwick's record as a judge on the Mississippi Court of Appeals is deeply troubling. He has consistently favored corporations, insurance companies, and other powerful interests over vulnerable workers and consumers. His record also calls into question his commitment to equal justice for minorities. Astonishingly, he joined the court's 5-4 opinion in Richmond v. Mississippi Department of Human Services, upholding the reinstatement of a state social worker who was fired for using a despicable racial epithet in a condescending reference to a fellow co-worker. This decision was later unanimously reversed by the Mississippi Supreme Court. In our view, the decision reveals a disturbing lack of understanding for the negative impact of this sort of language in the workplace. Similarly, Judge Southwick's rulings on race discrimination in jury selection give us pause. A review of his decisions reveals a disturbing pattern in which Judge Southwick routinely reject defense claims regarding racially motivated prosecutors who strike African-American jurors, but upholds claims of prosecutors that defense attorneys are striking white jurors on the basis of their race.

For the foregoing reasons, the UAW believes Judge Southwick's record raises troubling questions regarding his concern for the rights of racial minorities, workers

and consumers. According, the UAW urges the Committee to reject Judge Southwick's nomination.

Thank you for considering our views on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan Reuther".

Alan Reuther
Legislative Director

AR:cw
opeiu494
(1237)

cc: Members, Senate Judiciary Committee