

FACT SHEET

DON WILLETT

 **ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE**

Don Willett, a justice on the Texas Supreme Court, has been nominated by Donald Trump for a seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Willett boasts of being the most conservative justice on the Texas high court. His record shows that he is hostile to regulations that require corporations to respect the rights of workers, health and safety standards, or the environment. He has opposed rights for women and LGBTQ people.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Willett has advanced an anti-regulation, anti-worker, anti-environment, anti-health and safety judicial philosophy that would return the country to what legal scholars call

the Lochner era. This would allow judges to second guess legislators and federal agencies in order to favor corporations and special interests at the expense of consumers and workers.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

As a state official working in the administration of then-Gov. George W. Bush in Texas, Willett objected to a gubernatorial proclamation honoring the Texas Federation of Business and Professional Women. He wrote: "I resist the proclamation's talk of 'glass ceilings,' pay equity (an allegation that some studies debunk), the need to place kids in the care of rented strangers, sexual discrimination/harassment and the need generally for better 'working conditions' for women (read: more government)."

*Willett has ruled to limit monetary remedies for victims of sexual assault in Texas. In *Waffle House, Inc. v. Williams*, Willett's narrow reading of a Texas law prevented a woman who was repeatedly sexually harassed and assaulted by one of her co-workers from fully recovering damages.*

WORKERS' RIGHTS

Willett has ruled to make it more difficult for victims of employment discrimination to even have their case heard by a jury.

HEALTH CARE

Willett has been an outspoken opponent of the Affordable Care Act, even after the Supreme Court upheld its constitutionality. He praised then-Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott for leading a fight against the ACA. An opinion he wrote while on the Texas Supreme Court has been described as "the road map for the supreme court to overrule Obama's health care bill," earning Willett a reputation as "the judicial antidote to ObamaCare."

LGBTQ RIGHTS

Willett disparaged the freedom to marry for LGBTQ people when he joked about wanting the "right to marry bacon" in a tweet.

*Willett has consistently ruled against equal rights for married LGBTQ couples. Most recently, in June 2017, Willett joined the majority in *Pidgeon v. Turner*, which held that same-sex spouses of city workers in Houston have no inherent right to benefits under the Supreme Court's ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges*.*

TEXAS SUPREME COURT JUSTICE DON WILLETT HAS A TROUBLING RECORD ON LGBTQ RIGHTS, HEALTH CARE, WOMEN'S RIGHTS, AND MORE. ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE OPPOSES HIS NOMINATION.