

# JOAN LARSEN

*Joan Larsen, currently a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, is on President Trump's short list for the U.S. Supreme Court. Larsen's nomination would benefit only the wealthy and the powerful.*

## WON'T STAND UP TO DONALD TRUMP

Larsen has demonstrated extreme views when it comes to executive power. In 2006, she wrote an op-ed defending President George W. Bush's use of signing statements limiting the application of the McCain Amendment, which outlawed the use of torture against persons in custody in the U.S. Larsen [claimed](#) that "if circumstances arose in which the law would prevent [the President] from protecting the nation, he would choose the nation over the statute." One law professor [wrote](#) that Larsen's "enthusiasm for unchecked executive power should be profoundly worrying....We cannot afford judges who would grant President Trump extreme leeway to decide what statutes he may ignore in the interest of what so mercurial and unreliable a leader might deem 'protecting the nation.'"

Larsen worked on detention issues as an appointee in the Bush Administration's DOJ, at a time when her office "[authorized](#) torture, warrantless wiretapping, indefinite detention, and other abuses." While her exact role in some of our nation's most troubling policies is not clear, in 2002, she authored a memo on detention and habeas corpus. At a time when the president acts as if he is above the law, Larsen's record supporting extensive presidential power is deeply troubling.

## FIGHTS FOR WEALTHY AND POWERFUL OVER THE RIGHTS OF ALL

During her short time on the Sixth Circuit, Larsen has sided with the wealthy and powerful over the rights of workers. Larsen [ruled](#) to allow a cable company to deny benefits to a sick employee. Larsen also [allowed](#) the Tennessee Valley Authority to slash pension benefits in the wake of the 2009 financial crisis, finding that the cuts "did not cause plaintiffs any harm." During Larsen's bid for reelection to the Michigan Supreme Court, [big business](#) and billionaires, including [Betsy DeVos](#), spent heavily to support her.

A self-described "[originalist](#)," Larsen is a very vocal admirer of her former boss, the late Justice Scalia, who consistently ruled against protections for workers and consumers, voting rights, the constitutional right to have an abortion, and granting even the most basic protections to LGBTQ individuals.

## WILL NOT UPHOLD MARRIAGE EQUALITY

As a state supreme court justice, Larsen [failed](#) to give the Supreme Court's ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges* full effect: she refused to grant parental visitation rights to a lesbian mother who would have been married to her ex-partner, had same-sex marriage been legal at the time the couple was together.

Larsen took issue with the Supreme Court's decision in *Lawrence v. Texas*, the landmark case decriminalizing same-sex relationships, [writing](#) "it would be an understatement in the extreme to call the Supreme Court's decision in *Lawrence v. Texas* revolutionary." Larsen called the *Lawrence* decision "remarkable" and asserted that the majority's reasoning in reaching its decision "should alarm us."