

# AMUL THAPAR

*Amul Thapar, currently a Trump-appointed judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, is on the President's short list for the Supreme Court. A [friend](#) of Mitch McConnell, Thapar previously obtained judgeships with McConnell's backing, and then Thapar's family [donated](#) to McConnell's campaign. Thapar's nomination would threaten the rights of all.*

## FIGHTS FOR WEALTHY AND POWERFUL OVER RIGHTS OF ALL

As a district judge, Thapar [struck down](#) a ban on judges making political contributions to political parties. Thapar tried to end these rules, arguing that "direct speech and monetary speech are functional equivalents," even though the Supreme Court always made clear that contribution limits are permissible. In fact, Thapar's decision was [overturned](#), with the higher court finding that there is a difference between speech and using money to "assume a role as political powerbroker[.]" and that "judicial candidates...do not have an unlimited right to contribute money to someone else's campaign." Since joining the Sixth Circuit, Thapar has repeatedly sided with corporations, the wealthy, and the powerful, including allowing a [cable company](#) to deny benefits to a sick employee and allowing the Tennessee Valley Authority to [slash pension benefits](#).

## WILL OVERTURN ROE V. WADE AND THE ACA

Trump has again and again reminded us that he will only put justices on the Supreme Court that will pass his litmus test of overturning *Roe v. Wade*. Trump said [overturning Roe](#) "will happen automatically...because I am putting pro-life justices on the court." We should believe him. Trump also [said](#) "if I win the presidency, my judicial appointments will do the right thing unlike Bush's appointee John Roberts on Obamacare."

Thapar's presence on Trump's shortlist shows he was handpicked for the explicit purpose of taking away a woman's right to make her own reproductive healthcare decisions.

## ENEMY OF LGBTQ RIGHTS

Thapar [rejected](#) a claim of workplace harassment by an employee who had been repeatedly groped and verbally harassed, because Thapar believed there was no "credible evidence that the harasser was homosexual." Thapar's narrow view of same-sex harassment allows workplace predators to go unpunished and was [rejected](#) by [multiple federal courts](#) in similar cases. In Thapar's case, the victim was an oil rig worker who was sexually harassed until he was forced to leave his job, but Thapar dismissed his claims.

## AGAINST COMMON SENSE CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

In a [speech](#) before the Federalist Society, Thapar said that he believes certain sentencing policies do not do enough to punish offenders. Thapar has a [record](#) of troubling opinions, including a case in which he tried to send Sister Megan Rice, an [84-year old nun](#), to jail for almost three years for breaking into a government facility during a pacifist protest.