

8. On behalf of Alabama, you signed a brief urging the Supreme Court to grant certiorari after the Eleventh Circuit struck down a 2011 Alabama immigration law. Among other provisions, the Alabama law ordered public schools to check the citizenship status of new students, made it illegal to harbor undocumented immigrants and made it a crime for undocumented immigrants to seek work or to not have registration papers. You argued this AFTER the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on Arizona's controversial immigration law, which had some similar provisions.

Given your role defending such an extreme and anti-American law that dehumanizes immigrants, how can any immigrant appearing before you in court trust that he or she would be treated fairly and in accordance with their rights?

With respect, this question is conflating the position of my clients with my personal views. The Alabama Rules of Professional Conduct expressly provide that a "lawyer's representation of a client . . . does not constitute an endorsement of the client's political, economic, social or moral views or activities." Ala. R. Prof. Conduct 1.2. In addition to defending the law mentioned above, I have also defended the State's campaign finance laws, advanced the State's ability to collect sales tax from large corporations and internet retailers, and prosecuted the Republican Speaker of the House and former Executive Director of the Alabama Republican Party. Moreover, when I was in private practice, I was regularly appointed by federal judges to defend indigent criminal defendants in trial and appellate litigation. In all these cases, the positions that I have advocated in litigation were those of my clients, as opposed to my personal positions. Over 70 Alabama lawyers, including lawyers who are immigrants and first generation Americans, signed a letter in support of my nomination.