

The following Resolution will be considered by the Resolutions Committee at its meeting on January 30, 2025.

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***Resolution Calling for Reform of the Supreme Court of the United States to Address Ethical Crisis Detailed in the Senate Judiciary Committee Investigative Report***

**WHEREAS**, the Democratic Party has traditionally been, and is, committed to the rule of law and to holding government officials accountable for their actions;

**WHEREAS**, after a 20-month investigation, the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, chaired by then-U.S. Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin, found a consistent stream of ethical lapses by U.S. Supreme Court Justices and repeated failures by the Justices – under the leadership of Chief Justice John Roberts – to in any way address the Court’s ethical challenges;

**WHEREAS**, the Supreme Court of the United States is facing an ethical crisis of its own making which is causing it to lose the trust of the American people, which, in turn, erodes support for the rule of law;

**WHEREAS**, the highest Court in the land cannot have the lowest ethical standards and the Court has hidden its head in the sand rather than addressing either (1) the failure of Justices, such as Associate Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito, to disclose lavish gifts from billionaires and others with business before the Court or (2) the failure of Justices to recuse themselves from cases where they have an apparent conflict of interest;

**WHEREAS**, the ethical lapses uncovered by the Senate Judiciary Committee include: Justice Thomas accepting 258 lavish personal trips, dozens of which were not disclosed; Justice Thomas failing to disclose these and other lavish gifts in violation of federal law; Justice Alito misusing the “personal hospitality exemption” to hide gifts of luxury transportation and lodging in a 2008 Alaska fishing trip; the display of two well-established “Stop the Steal” symbols at the Alitos’ properties while Justice Alito actively participated in cases about the 2020 election; and Ginni Thomas, Justice Thomas’ wife, paid for efforts involving the “Stop the Steal” movement and other right-wing causes, which created a clear conflict of interest for Justice Thomas under applicable law;

**WHEREAS**, the Senate Judiciary Committee report recommends that Congress address these concerns by, among other steps, establishing an enforceable Code of Conduct for Supreme Court Justices and a mechanism for meaningful enforcement thereof, and, more specifically:

- “Congress must establish an enforceable code of conduct due to the Court’s abdication of its ethical responsibilities to do so.
- The Judicial Conference must be reformed and its internal operations improved, requiring action by Congress as well as internal changes by the Judicial Conference and the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.
- Further investigation – ideally with the cooperation of the justices – is needed to understand how the justices allowed these ethical lapses to occur and how to effectively address these failures going forward.”

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Democratic National Committee dedicates itself to the rule of law and to holding government officials accountable for their actions by supporting the recommendations of the Senate Judiciary Committee on reforms to the Supreme Court of the United States, the Judicial Conference and the Administrative Office of the Courts to address this ethical crisis; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the DNC will advocate for these and other reforms to the Supreme Court of the United States that are aimed at improving the public’s perception of the Court as an institution worthy of respect and trust.