

## **AC-T skipped over a few details about Conrad**

Your editorial, "Conrad belongs on court, and we need fewer judicial fights" aptly discussed how President Bush is unnecessarily picking fights on 4th Circuit Court of Appeals nominations, including his selection of E. Duncan Getchell who was "considered and rejected" by Republican Senator John Warner and Democrat James Webb when they compiled a list of five names.

You also correctly identified controversial Federalist Society and Landmark Legal Foundation ties of 4th Circuit nominee Steve A. Matthews (although he was nominated from South Carolina, not Virginia as you indicated).

Your endorsement of Robert J. Conrad, Jr., however, glosses over his record.

Sen. John Edwards (D-NC) blocked Conrad's district court nomination. Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) later reluctantly approved it after highlighting Conrad's "inflammatory writings"—Conrad denounced Sister Helen Prejean as a "church-hating nun," and wrote that he "found only liberal drivel" in her book, "Dead Man Walking." When he sat by designation on the 4th Circuit, Conrad joined a mountaintop removal decision that reversed a district court judge and led 3 judges to dissent from denial of rehearing because the decision "eviscerated" key Clean Water Act language and undermined its protective purpose.

**Glenn Sugameli, Washington, D.C.**