

How One Right-Wing Judge Can be a Wrecking Ball to the Constitution By Mark Karlin

EXCERPT:

As in our BuzzFlash Editor's Blog [yesterday](#), we end up back at the fraternity for the right wing takeover of the federal bench: The Federalist Society.

We mentioned that their [annual conference](#) is now going on in Washington D.C. The "A" team of the "silent coup" of our judicial system are all there, most of them trotted out as "star" speakers. Even Bush spoke to them last night.

In his remarks Bush, once again -- in an act of brazen hypocrisy -- "blasted" the Senate. Why? According to the [Chicago Tribune](#), Bush complained, in his November 15th Federalist Society speech, that "inside the Beltway," too many people have interpreted the Senate's constitutional authority of advise and consent in the confirmation of federal judges as the power to "search and destroy." Bush went on to lambaste the Democrats in the senate for not rubber stamping EVERY hack, partisan judge that he nominates.

The Tribune quotes an alternative perspective:

"President Bush's Federalist Society speech tonight sets new standards for hypocrisy on the judicial nominations wars that he has needlessly and deliberately provoked for political reasons," says Glenn Sugameli, senior legislative counsel for Earthjustice.

"All too often, President Bush's previous and current nominees for lifetime federal judgeships have been chosen precisely because their extreme records will reignite ideological battles, ensuring they will not be confirmed at all or without a major fight," says Sugameli, calling the speech "gasoline on the simmering embers of the judicial nomination wars."

Ah yes, but Bush is convinced that the right wing takeover of the judiciary is on course and settling in for a new generation, [as he told](#) the members of the Federalist Society: "There's also good news -- and it's here in this room. Thanks in part to your efforts, a new generation of lawyers is rising. A new culture is taking root in our legal community. And principled men and women who understand the Constitution and are able to defend it are finding their way to our nation's law schools and law faculties and law firms -- and even to the corridors of power here in Washington, DC."

Chilling words, indeed.