

# The Courier

Findlay, Ohio

August 7, 2007

Letter to the Editor

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## Letter to the Editor

By Glenn Sugameli, Legislative Counsel from Earthjustice

The August 7 editorial, [["Short Shots"](#)] did not reflect either the history of President Bush's judicial nominations or the scope of problems with Leslie Southwick's nomination to a lifetime seat on the 5<sup>th</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

President Bush has failed to nominate anyone for 22 of 48 court vacancies, including two 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit Virginia-based seats for which Sens. John Warner and Jim Webb jointly recommended five names. He also has refused to nominate anyone to appeals court seats in other Circuits despite recommendations from Republicans, including Sen. Arlen Specter (PA) and then-Sen. Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island.

When President Bush has submitted nominees, he has all too-often failed to actually talk to Senators who have a constitutional "advise and consent" role. A 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit Maryland-based seat has remained unfilled for almost seven years because Claude Allen, the only nominee President Bush submitted, did not live in the state (he later pled guilty to misdemeanor theft). Recently, President Bush gave New Jersey's Senators no input on their state's 3<sup>rd</sup> Circuit nominee, and only informed them after the selection was made.

The problems with Leslie Southwick's nomination go beyond the two decisions mentioned in your editorial. Senators' statements and many of the letters of concern and opposition collected at [judgingtheenvironment.org](http://judgingtheenvironment.org) cited his apparent pro-corporate tilt and his rulings against access to courts and workers' rights as a Mississippi Court of Appeals judge.

-Glenn  
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