

A ≠ for Alito

CWA played big role in new justice's confirmation.

By Pamela P. Wong

It was a rough journey and the longest in nomination history, but Judge Samuel Alito finally achieved Senate confirmation on January 31. In a 58 to 42 vote, the federal appeals court judge from New Jersey filled the ninth spot on the U.S. Supreme Court. CWA led in the pro-family work for his confirmation, and as a CWA supporter, so did you!

Women for Alito

CWA spearheaded a “Women for Alito,” Washington press conference. It featured eight women leaders, representing the Family Research Council and others, including Mary Ellen (Mrs. Robert) Bork of Women for Faith and Family. Many major news organizations attended, including *The Washington Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, NBC, CBN, the Gannett News Service and C-SPAN, which provided live coverage.

As the program began, a handful of protesters, chanting “Bush and Alito will outlaw abortion and women will die” and wearing T-shirts splattered in fake blood, invaded the event. CWA President Wendy Wright calmly led them out. They represented a radical group called World Can't



Judge Alito signed autographs and shook hands with pro-family volunteers to express his thanks.

Wait, which flaunts its communist ideology.

Speaker Jane Abraham of the Susan B. Anthony List gracefully handled the interruption. “Aren’t we proud of the Constitution’s 1st Amendment so that can occur?” she asked.

The speakers presented solid reasons for Judge Alito’s confirmation.

“Judge Alito should be and will be confirmed because his rulings demonstrate that he impartially applies the law to the facts before him and because his philosophy is mainstream America,” said Jan LaRue, CWA’s Chief Counsel.

“The portrait that is drawn of him by those who know him and know his writings is of a man of great intelligence, integrity, fairness, humility and justice. We add our

voices to theirs,” said Wendy Wright.

Project 535 Lobbies

Led by Director of Government Relations Lanier Swann, CWA worked with a coalition of pro-family groups, such as Eagle Forum, Teen Pact and Abstinence Clearinghouse, and launched nationwide support for Judge Alito.

During the week of the hearing, volunteers from around the country—including home-school students and some CWA state leaders—gathered each morning to encourage the Alito family as they arrived. The supporters held signs, such as “Sam’s Club” and “Confirm Alito!,” to counter opposing protestors.

After enduring attacks from liberal senators, the Alitos appreciated the friendly faces. They stopped several times to shake hands, say thank you and sign autographs.

CWA’s Project 535 volunteer lobbyists also worked for Judge Alito. Inside the Senate, they distributed packets about why CWA supported him. They also gathered information from Senate staffers about what constituents in the states were saying and how senators were planning to vote.

“This information was remarkably valuable to our efforts,” said CWA’s Swann. “The ladies’ work helped to determine our coalition’s direction for the rest of the week. Several key leaders were waiting for word back from our lobbyists, and we heard such positive feedback and appreciation for all their work.”

In the Media

CWA representatives appeared in many TV, radio and print media outlets, including ABC, Fox, MSNBC, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times* and others, where they had opportunity to speak on Judge Alito’s behalf.



The White House invited CWA’s Jan LaRue to the swearing-in ceremony for Justice Alito (right).

In the States

CWA leaders jumped into action in key states where senators were considered swing votes.

- In Montana, State Director Patti Kanduch organized a press conference at the Missoula office of Sen. Max Baucus (D). TV stations in Missoula and Butte covered it, and members around the state sent letters and phone calls to their senators.
- In New Mexico, Prayer/Action Leader (PAL) Gayle Davis sent a letter to the editor and organized telephone calls to Sens. Pete Dominici (R) and Jeff Bingaman (D).
- In North Dakota, PAL Janne Myrdal initiated lots of prayer and a call-in campaign to Sens. Byron Dorgan (D) and Kent Conrad (D). Sen. Dorgan’s office admitted that it had received only one call opposing Judge Alito and “numerous” calls in favor.

We can now call him *Justice* Alito because caring Americans, in Washington, D.C., and around the nation, stood up for President Bush’s fine nominee. Thank you for your support!

Pamela Wong is Editor of Family Voice. For more on Justice Alito and the Supreme Court, visit www.cwfa.org/courts.asp. ■