

# Judicial Appointments

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## NOMINATION MEMO

William Pryor

**Nominated: April 9, 2003**

Hearing: June 11, 2003

Position: U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit (Alabama, Georgia, Florida)

- Court Stats: 12 full-time positions, 1 vacancy, 1 nominee
- Urgency: This vacancy is a **judicial emergency**
- Current Job: Attorney General of Alabama (appointed 1997, re-elected in 1998 and 2002 with 59 percent of the vote)

Background:

- Deputy Attorney General of Alabama
- Private practice in Birmingham law firm specializing in commercial and complex federal litigation
- Adjunct professor at the Cumberland School of Law of Samford University

Distinctions:

- Personally argued one case before the U.S. Supreme Court.
- Law clerk for the late Judge John Minor Wisdom of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.
- J.D. magna cum laude, Tulane University School of Law (1987)
- Editor in chief of the Tulane Law Review

ABA Rating: Substantial majority: Qualified

Minority: Not qualified

Recusal: 1

General Pryor has widespread support from across the ideological and political spectrum:

- Dr. Joe Reed, the chairman of the Alabama Democratic Conference (the state party's African-American caucus), calls General Pryor a “first-class public official” who “will be a credit to the [j]udiciary and will be a guardian for justice.”
- Thurbert Baker, the Democratic Attorney General of Georgia and an African-American, says that General Pryor “has always done what he thought was best for the people of Alabama” and “know[s] that his work on the bench will continue to serve as an example of how the public trust should be upheld.”
- Former Democratic Alabama Governor Don Siegelman, who served in that office for much of General Pryor's tenure as Attorney General, stated, “Bill Pryor is an incredibly talented, intellectually honest attorney general. He calls them like he sees them. He's got a lot of courage, and he will stand up and fight when he believes he's right.”

**CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA**

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