

**Officers of the
National Commission**

National Chair
Marvin D. Nathan
CEO and National Director
Jonathan A. Greenblatt
Past National Chairs
Barbara B. Balsler
Howard P. Berkowitz
Kenneth J. Bialkin
Barry Curtiss-Lusher
Burton S. Levinson
Glen S. Lewy
David H. Strassler
Robert G. Sugarman
Glen A. Tobias
Vice Chairs
Martin Budd
Meyer Eisenberg
Esta Gordon Epstein
James Grosfeld
Charles Kriser
Steven Lyons
Ruth Moss
George Stark
Mark Wolf
Christopher Wolf
Honorary Vice Chairs
Rudy Boschwitz
Yossie Hollander
Geri M. Joseph
Bernard Marcus
Cynthia Marks
Samuel H. Miller
Haim Saban
Michael Steindhardt
Gerald Stempler
Treasurer
Milton S. Schneider
Honorary Treasurer
Robert H. Naftaly
Secretary
Thomas C. Homburger
Assistant Secretary
Stanford Baratz
Standing Committee Chairs
Administration
Lawrence Rosenbloom/
Pamela Schwartz
Audit
Shelley Parker
Budget
Mitchell Weseley
Civil Rights
Elizabeth A. Price
Development
Ben Sax
Education
Miriam Weisman
Information Technology
Arthur Reidel
International Affairs
Eric Horodas
Leadership
Tracey Grossman/Tracy Treger
Funding for The Future
Lawrence Miller
Marketing & Communications
Joseph Goldblum
Outreach & Interfaith Affairs
Martin L. Budd
Planning
Milton S. Schneider
Regional Operations
Esta Gordon Epstein
Washington Affairs
Michael Sheetz
Senior Management Team
Deputy National Director
Kenneth Jacobson
Growth
Frederic L. Bloch, SVP
Chief of Staff
Emily Bromberg
Finance & Administration
Michael A. Kellman, SVP
International Affairs
Sharon Nazarian, SVP
Technology
Rafail Portnoy, SVP
Programs
George Selim, SVP
Talent & Knowledge
Tom Ruderman, SVP
General Counsel, Privacy & Security
Steven C. Sheinberg, SVP
Communications & Digital
Betsaida Alcantara, VP
Brand & Marketing
Amy Aronoff Blumkin, VP
Law Enforcement, Extremism
& Community Security
David Friedman, VP
Regional Operations
& Advancement
David S. Waren, VP
**Anti-Defamation League
Foundation**
President
Glen S. Lewy
National Director Emeritus
Abraham H. Foxman



June 13, 2018

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), we write to urge you to oppose the confirmation of Gordon Giampietro to be a Judge on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Founded over a century ago to stop the defamation of the Jewish people and secure fair and just treatment to all, ADL advocates for the civil rights of all people and combats discrimination and hate across the country. We rarely oppose judicial nominees, but we are deeply disturbed by the nomination of Gordon Giampietro and believe he lacks the required measure of fairness to all to merit a lifetime appointment to the federal bench.

Mr. Giampietro's own statements, during a series of faith-based radio shows in which he was the featured guest, made clear his hostility toward the LGBT community and the rights currently afforded them, as well as laws protecting women's rights. We believe this calls into serious question his ability to serve as a fair and impartial jurist.

During one radio show, Mr. Giampietro shared that he vehemently disagrees with the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case *Obergefell v. Hodges*, calling the decision an "assault on the conscience rights on all Americans."¹ He expressed concerns that people who "disapprove of homosexuality" will be labeled as bigots, and that their rights will be restricted. He made it clear he disagreed with all major gay rights jurisprudence when he stated that he knew the marriage decision was ultimately coming because Justice Kennedy "went off the rails years ago in *Lawrence v Texas*,"² referring to the U.S. Supreme Court landmark decision striking down laws banning sexual acts between same-sex consenting partners. His openness about his hostility toward Supreme Court jurisprudence in this area should be of utmost concern as he is considered for the federal bench.

In addition, Mr. Giampietro has been deeply critical of other people's views of what constitutes a family. He has stated that children are best raised in heterosexual households: "children are best raised by man and a woman. This is natural. This is the truth. And it's irrefutable."³ Further, Mr. Giampietro has referred to same-sex relationships as "troubled relationships" and agreed with a radio host's hyperbolic notion that the *Obergefell* decision could legally open the door to polygamous or incestuous marriages.⁴

¹ Nazareth Project on Relevant Radio, Fortnight for Freedom (July 4, 2014), available at <https://youtu.be/J6oqOjhr0gI>

² *Id.*

³ https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/trump-judicial-nominee-lgbt-gordon-giampietro_us_5a861075e4b004fc31906773

⁴ *Id.*

ADL Community Support Center

Anti-Defamation League, 605 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10158-3560 T 212.885.7700 www.adl.org

Mr. Giampietro also revealed his strong convictions related to reproductive health rights, commenting that the seeds for what he sees as an altered definition of marriage were sowed with the advent of what he called “the contraceptive society” because procreation was no longer the purpose of marriage. Mr. Giampietro went on to refer to contraception as “an assault on nature.”⁵ He also stated that the “Founders would be shocked to think that it’s a constitutional right to kill an unborn child, that it would be a constitutional right to marry someone of the same sex. Yet, that is where we find ourselves.”⁶

Finally, Mr. Giampietro has made concerning statements related to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, describing calls for diversity as “code for relaxed standards (moral and intellectual).” In the comment section of a blog post on “The Catholic Thing” about the Affordable Care Act’s contraception care mandate, he reportedly wrote that the author was “exactly right to trace the intrusion into private business to the Civil Right Act.” He went on to say that we brought this “intrusion” on ourselves, starting with slavery:

“Absent slavery, there might have been a vibrant federalism that allowed for differences of opinion to exist side by side until the truth will out. Absent slavery, there is no racial spoils system, no calls for diversity — which is code for relaxed standards (moral and intellectual) — and no eye-rolling when appeals are made to ‘states’ rights.’ In short, because we denied blacks the fundamental human right to freedom we sowed the seeds of our own loss of freedom.”⁷

Mr. Giampietro’s passionately-held views against same-sex marriage, generally, and his negative views on the Court’s jurisprudence in the gay rights arena are troubling. These views, coupled with his strong statements against women’s reproductive choice freedom, show a deep-seeded conviction about American family life that does not match the reality of our democratic, pluralistic society. Mr. Giampietro’s passionate stances on these issues surely compromise his ability to be an impartial jurist.

In ADL’s view, the Senate’s role in the nomination process is equally as important as the president’s responsibility to nominate. For the above reasons, ADL urges you to reject the nomination of Gordon Giampietro to be a judge for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,



Jonathan A. Greenblatt
CEO

⁵ *Supra*, note 1.

⁶ *Supra*, note 3.

⁷ Zoe Tillman, One of Trump’s Judicial Nominees Once Wrote That Diversity Is “Code For Relaxed Standards”, BUZZFEED NEWS (Feb. 15, 2018), https://www.buzzfeed.com/zoetillman/one-of-trumps-judicial-nominees-once-wrote-that-diversity?utm_term=.oyJ22QPbMA#.se9wwGqx85