



U.S. Senator for Kentucky

**MITCH McCONNELL**

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**SENATOR McCONNELL UNVEILS CAMPAIGN  
FINANCE LEGAL TEAM**

Today we turn from the Congress -- where politics trumped principle and compromise trashed the Constitution -- to the Supreme Court, where the First Amendment still stands as America's premier reform.

This is not about Republicans battling Democrats or the left versus the right. This is a mission to preserve the fundamental constitutional freedom of all Americans to fully participate in our democracy.

To wage this fight for freedom in the courts, I have brought together the strongest team of skilled, successful and experienced constitutional lawyers in America. Hailing from the east coast, west coast and in between, this team's noted ideological and political diversity is transcended by their shared commitment as Americans to defend the Constitution.

I am honored to be standing here with them.

**Floyd Abrams**

The first person I am honored to introduce to you today is Mr. Floyd Abrams. Floyd is widely considered to be the preeminent First Amendment lawyer in the country. He is the William J. Brennan, Jr. Visiting Professor of First Amendment Law at the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism and is a partner in the New York law firm of Cahill, Gordon and Reindel.

Floyd has argued frequently in the Supreme Court in some of the Court's most significant First Amendment cases. He was co-counsel to the *New York Times* in the Pentagon Papers case and has represented the *Times*, ABC, NBC, CBS, Time Magazine and Reader's Digest and other clients in trials and appeals, and represented Nina Totenberg and National Public Radio in the 1992 "leak" investigation arising from the confirmation hearing of Clarence Thomas.

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A graduate of Cornell University and the Yale Law School, he was the recipient of the People for the American Way's "Democracy" award and has served as the Chairman of the Committee on Freedom of Speech and of the Press of the Individual Rights Section of the American Bar Association.

My friend, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, said it best when he observed that Mr. Abrams is "the most significant First Amendment lawyer of our age."

### **Judge Kenneth Starr**

Judge Ken Starr is a man of immense legal talent and experience -- particularly at the appellate level. He served with distinction for six years on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, and for four years as the Solicitor General of the United States, where he argued more than two dozen cases before the Supreme Court.

Judge Starr also served as an Independent Counsel in the Whitewater matter, and served as a law clerk for Chief Justice Warren E. Burger during the landmark campaign finance case, *Buckley v. Valeo*.

Judge Starr, currently a partner at Kirkland and Ellis, is a graduate of Brown, George Washington University and the Duke Law School. He is a past recipient of the Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service.

### **James Bopp**

I have been privileged to be associated with James Bopp over the past decade on the important issue of the First Amendment. Jim serves as the General Counsel for the James Madison Center for Free Speech, and has probably argued and won more first amendment campaign finance cases than any lawyer in the country.

He is a talented and tireless champion of the Constitution, of free speech, and of the rights of people and organizations to participate in the political process. Jim's outstanding work is reflected in the numerous successful court challenges he has brought against federal and state restraints on free speech. His expertise in election law is widely known around the country. Jim has testified before Congress on several occasions; he has written law review articles; and has argued before the United States Supreme Court - in fact, he will be arguing a case at the Supreme Court next week. I am grateful that he will be a part of this team.

### **Bobby R. Burchfield**

Bobby R. Burchfield is a successful and distinguished election lawyer and Co-Chairman of the Litigation Group at Covington & Burling, the firm that represented the challengers to the 1974 campaign finance bill in *Buckley v. Valeo*. For over 20 years, Bobby has practiced in the area of complex trial and appellate litigation, trying numerous cases to judges and juries throughout the country, arguing ten appellate cases, and serving as co-counsel in three cases before the United States Supreme Court.

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Over the past decade, Bobby has litigated over a dozen important campaign finance and First Amendment cases for candidates, political parties, and others. Throughout that time, I have been privileged to work closely with Bobby and greatly value his advice and counsel on this issue.

### Jan Baran

Jan Baran is one of Washington's most prominent and experienced election lawyers. He is a senior partner at the Washington, DC, law firm of Wiley Rein & Fielding, where he heads the Election Law and Government Ethics Group. Jan has practiced in the area of elections and constitutional law for 27 years, and has argued four cases before the Supreme Court.

Jan is a past-chairman of the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Election Law and was a member of President George H W Bush's Commission on Federal Ethics Law Reform. From 1989-1992 he was General Counsel of the Republican National Committee as well as General Counsel of the 1988 Bush for President campaign.

### Dean Kathleen M. Sullivan

And, finally, I would like to introduce an integral member of the team who could not be here today because of her duties as Dean of the Stanford University Law School, Kathleen M. Sullivan.

Having co-authored the casebook *First Amendment Law*, Dean Sullivan is revered as one of the foremost experts on the First Amendment – both in legal academia and in the court of law. She is co-author of “New Federalist Papers: Essays in Defense of the Constitution” and has published articles on constitutional law and theory in a wide range of law reviews. She has contributed to *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *The New Republic*. Recently the *National Law Journal* named her to its list of the “100 Most Influential Lawyers in America.”

A graduate of Cornell University and from Oxford, she earned her J.D. from the Harvard Law School. Prior to her time at Stanford, Dean Sullivan served as a professor of constitutional law at Harvard Law School. I think it's fair to say that most of us at the podium today learned much of what we know about the First Amendment from the eloquent and incisive writing of Dean Sullivan.