

## Justice Rising

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**JUSTICE RISING** is a publication of **The Alliance for Democracy**, whose mission is to end the domination of our politics, our economics, the environment, and our culture by large corporations. The Alliance seeks to establish true economic and political democracy and to create a just society with a sustainable, equitable economy.

### The Alliance for Democracy

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### Nancy Price and David Delk

Co-chairs of the AfD National Council  
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## AfD on Constitutional Change

Read Alliance for Democracy's brochure "Corporations are not People," by Nancy Price and David E. Delk at [www.thealliancefordemocracy.org/brochure.pdf](http://www.thealliancefordemocracy.org/brochure.pdf) Print some out for distribution and tabling. Or, call Barbara Clancy at the National Office, Waltham, MA 781-894-1179 or email [afd@thealliancefordemocracy.org](mailto:afd@thealliancefordemocracy.org) to order copies of the brochure, bumper stickers, and more issues of Justice Rising.

# Justice Rising

by Jim Tarbell



Secretive, anti-democratic, manipulative, corporate influenced, Political, monarchical: the 1/21/2010 Supreme Court decision against the FEC displayed all that is wrong with this Court.

Just look at how the case came to the Court. For undisclosed, secretive reasons, after hearing the case in March 2009, the Court then opened it back up in a blatant move to give corporations political speech rights, which itself was only a ruse to further cement the concept of corporate personhood while continuing the deregulation of "corporate behavior" and allowing corporate money to further corrupt our electoral process.

As always, this case was chosen with a purpose. Judicial clerks spend their time searching for lower court cases that can produce "juicy results" for the Justices. Political machines funnel them cases. Long time money-power attorney James R. Bopp designed this case to get the results he wanted from the Supreme Court. Even the case name "Citizens United" looks like a public relations set-up. And now Bopp says he has "a ten-year plan to...dismantle the entire regulatory regime that is called campaign finance law." One of his next cases for the Republican National Committee seeks to overturn restrictions on corporate funding to political parties.

The Federalist Society-dominated Court majority makes this possible. All of the majority are Republican appointees and the four appointed by Reagan and George W. Bush are the obvious results of a political campaign to pack the Court with ultra conservative, pro-corporate ideologues. Even the mainline Republican Justices are abhorred by this court majority. It apparently led Republican appointee David Souter to retire as soon as Democratic President Barack Obama could name his successor and John Paul Stevens, a Republican President Gerald Ford appointee, wrote a virulent dissent in this case.

The decision put the power of the Court majority on full display as they rewrote the meaning of the Constitution, overturning multiple precedents from both recent and historically venerable decisions. It confirmed all that Anti-Federalists had feared 220 years ago, that the Court was the new King, beyond reproach by the democratic citizenry.

Polls show that a vast majority of citizens disagree with this decision. The time has arrived for a new democratic citizens movement to amend these wrongs by clarifying that corporations are not persons. They should also confirm that there is no place in our democracy for a manipulative, monarchical, pro-corporate Supreme Court.

## New Energy on the AfD National Council

As the movement to control corporate power gains advocates across the country, five more concerned citizens have joined the National Council of the Alliance for Democracy. They all come with years of worldly knowledge and a broad geographic diversity.

Larry Britt knows corporate power from the inside. He worked for 23 years in international business, working in finance and product development. He has also written extensively on political and economic affairs. He now lives in Rochester, NY.

Rebecca Wolfe is the new regional representative for the

Pacific Northwest. She has a Ph.D. from Gonzaga University in Leadership Studies and established the Language School of Spokane for studies in languages and cultures.

Rick Staggengborg is a psychiatrist and has been active nationally in single payer health care. He is the founder of Take Back America for the People, the American arm of Soldiers for Peace International. He lives on the Southern Oregon Coast.

Helen (Gilly) Burlingham lived around the world with her foreign service husband. After working as an activist in social justice and environmental issues, she decided that she could be more effective working on the "corporate actor." She lives in Portland, Oregon

Tom Abbott spent a long career in international agricultural development with the University of Arizona College of Agriculture. He successfully raised money for youth development at the college and looks forward to increasing AfD membership and resources. He lives in Sacramento, CA.

