

Supreme Courts of Elite Rule

Tarbell

Associate Justice Samuel Blatchford, son of the financial agent and counsel for Bank of England and Bank of the United States, worked with a New York firm that represented Wells Fargo and other express companies.

Associate Justice Horace Gray, whose shipbuilding grandfather was Boston's wealthiest man.



photo: SCOTUS

Associate Justice Stanley Matthews, was chief Midwest attorney for railroad mogul Jay Gould, and represented several railroad companies while serving in the US Senate.

Associate Justice Stephen J. Fields learned law from his brothers, lawyers for robber barons Jay Gould and James Fisk. When Fields went to California, he befriended Pacific Railroad founder Leland Stanford who became his political patron.

Corporate Personhood Court

Before joining the Court, Waite's list of corporate clients included the State Bank of Ohio, and the Southern Michigan Railroad Company. Once Waite became Chief Justice, "it was evident...that the railroad corporations had become the sovereign power."

The 1882-87 Waite Court bench also included two Justices associated with two of the most notorious robber barons, Jay Gould and James Fisk. Stanley Matthews was Gould's main Midwest lawyer, and Stephen J. Fields' brothers represented Gould in New York. Chief Justice Waite, who reigned over the Supreme Court from 1874-1888, managed Courts that cleared the legal road for corporate power to rule America.

The Current Court Majority

Five members of the current Supreme Court have continued the long tradition of Supreme Court rulings in the interests of corporations and economic elites. The Alliance for Justice calls it "The Court of the One Percent" and goes on to say that:

With decision after decision coming down on the side of big business, the Supreme Court under Chief Justice John Roberts has proven itself to be willing and eager to twist the law to favor powerful corporate interests over everyday Americans.

In just the last few years, the Court has radically rewritten laws in order to shield big business from liability, insulate corporate interests from environmental and antitrust regulation, make it easier for companies to discriminate against women and the elderly, and enable powerful interests to flood our election process with special interest dollars. Fairness has been thrown out the window.

Their most infamous decision in the Citizens United case was driven by Anthony Kennedy who took the opportunity to "declare McCain-Feingold's campaign finance restrictions unconstitutional, overturn an earlier Supreme Court decision from 1990, and gut long-standing prohibitions on corporate giving." This decision led to the national Move to Amend campaign to end corporate personhood that just had their We the People 28th Amendment to the US Constitution introduced into the US Congress.



photo: Daily Damosies

Associate Justice Samuel Alito is the man that mouthed "not true" when President Obama declared in his 2010 State of the Union address that the Citizens United decision had "reversed a century of law that I believe will open the floodgates for special interests...to spend without limit in our elections."



photo: Salon.com

Chief Justice John Roberts defended more corporations in front of the Supreme Court during the 1990s than almost any other lawyer. His clients included the National Mining Association and Fox Television.



photo: USA Today

Associate Justice Antonin Scalia worked for the corporate law firm that is now Jones Day which "represents many of the world's largest companies and financial institutions."



photo: Telegraph.co.uk

Associate Justice Clarence Thomas, known as the most conservative judge on the current Court, worked as a corporate lawyer for Monsanto in Missouri where that company is headquartered.



photo: pbs.org

Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy worked as a corporate lawyer and lobbyist in California where he helped Ronald Reagan, who appointed him to the Supreme Court.