



Saturday's letters to the editor

8:24 AM, Apr. 28, 2012

Activist high court

Re: Your editorial "[Justice under fire](#)," April 8. I agree; an independent judicial system is essential. Unfortunately, from the *Gore v. Bush* through the *Citizens United* case and *AT&T Mobility v. Concepcion*, it is apparent that the "wisdom of the court" is indeed in question, not because of comments from others, but by the court's own unethical actions.

Justices Clarence Thomas and Antonin Scalia were featured speakers at Koch Brothers fundraisers, supporting the *Citizens United* decision. The Center for Competitive Politics Institute for Justice and the Cato Institute, both founded by Charles Koch, filed briefs in support for overturning campaign finance laws.

Justice Samuel Alito attended fundraisers for the American Spectator, the "Conservative Action Project" and the Intercollegiate Studies Institute, both of which, orchestrated opposition to President Obama.

Yes, we can live with wise, unpopular decisions based on independent jurisprudence. And no one argues the Supreme Court's *Marbury v. Madison* decision for judicial review of laws. What is in question, given the ideological predisposition and the history of this court, is whether they are capable of providing the independent jurisprudence while flaunting obvious conflicts of interest.

For 30 years, conservatives complained of judicial activism, now they own it. They have figured out a way to bypass precedent and apply that judicial activism, favoring corporations at the expense of "we the people."

Frank Howe, Fort Myers