



Interest Groups Weigh In On Souter

By Seth Stern | May 1, 2009 11:54 AM | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

Interest groups across the political spectrum have been quick to offer their thoughts this morning about news of the reported pending retirement of Supreme Court justice David Souter. And their comments are predictable.

It appears People For the American Way wins for first out of the gate. In a [statement](#) emailed out this morning just after midnight, Marge Baker, the group's executive vice president and point person on judicial nominations, called on President Obama to "nominate someone who can continue his work to defend our personal freedoms and ensure that every person has equal access to justice."

The Cato Institute's Ilya Shapiro [called it](#) "the end of an error. David Souter, the "stealth justice" who George H. W. Bush nominated mainly to avoid a confirmation battle and who so disappointed conservatives, is finally free to leave a city he never took to and return to his native New Hampshire."

Nan Aron of the liberal Alliance for Justice released a [statement](#) saying, "The president can look to a broad array of legal talent to select a nominee who not only has an excellent record in the law, but also a respect for core constitutional values and a commitment to equal justice for all, not just a few."

Ed Whelan, president of the conservative Ethics and Public Policy Center, [wrote on](#) National Review's Bench Memos, "Souter has been a terrible justice, but you can expect Obama's nominee to be even worse."