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# OpEdNews Op Eds 7/8/2023 at 9:27 AM EDT H1'ed 7/8/23 As Distrust in SCOTUS Grows, Roberts Must Employ Indiana Values He Learned to Police Ethics of the Court

By [Robert Weiner](#) (Page 1 of 2 pages) [No comments](#)

By Robert Weiner and Annie Cayer

Article originally published in the Indianapolis Star



Official roberts CJ.

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The annual report of payments received by justices on the [Supreme Court is surprising and troubling.](#)

"There's one person who can end this before the sun sets, John Roberts," Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Illinois, told Morning Joe on June 22. "Write a code of ethics for the Supreme Court." Durbin is chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which has jurisdiction over the court and is considering legislation.

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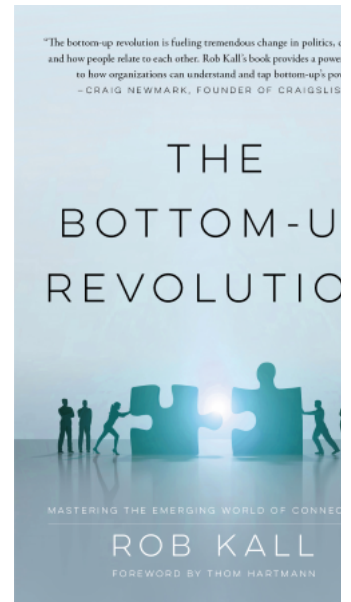
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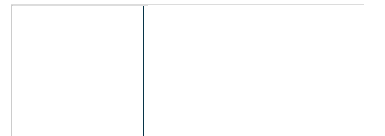
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Chief Justice John Roberts spent approximately 10 years of his education in LaPorte, where he graduated from La Lumiere School in 1973. Roberts was co-captain of the football team, where he learned high moral leadership and was co-editor of the school's newspaper where he perfected his hard-working personality. He worked summers at a steel mill in Burns Harbor, Indiana.

Chief Justice Roberts changed his report from previous years regarding his wife's work. In the new disclosure, Jane Roberts received a base salary and commission from recruiting firm Macare in 2022. Previous filings had disclosed only a salary from the firm. Jane Roberts has also reportedly been paid over \$10 million by a plethora of law firms, at least one that soon after would appear in front of the court according to a report by [Insider](#).

There is a mandatory report judges must file outlining their outside income for the public to see, including amounts earned by their respective spouses. However, this report does not require a spouse to disclose the consequential aspects of their expenditures including client names.

[ProPublica disclosed in June that in 2008 Justice Samuel Alito was flown by billionaire Paul Singer to Alaska on a private jet.](#) However, he did not report this on his annual financial disclosure. Furthermore, Singer's hedge fund came before the court and Alito did not recuse himself. The fund came before the court "at least 10 times" as reported by ProPublica.

Alito states he spoke to Singer "on no more than a handful of occasions" but we now know including during a \$100,000 private jet chartered fishing trip to Alaska.

Justice Clarence Thomas has delayed his reporting so that his acceptance of extravagant vacations and Nazi relics from Republican donor Harlan Crow is still unreported in his submissions, but [they are revealed in the media](#).

Additionally, "a little-known conservative activist group led by Virginia "Ginni" Thomas, the wife of Thomas, collected nearly \$600,000 in anonymous donations to wage a cultural battle against the leftover three years, [a Washington Post investigation found](#)."

Congressman Hank Johnson, D-Georgia, and Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-Rhode Island, have reintroduced the Supreme Court Ethics, Recusal, and Transparency Act, a bill requiring justices to adopt a code of ethics.

After Durbin, the Judiciary Committee's Chair, requested the chief justice appear in front of a panel in order to address ethical reforms, Justice Roberts declined and called such testimonies by justices "exceedingly rare" in light of the separation of power concerns and the importance of preserving judicial independence." While the idea of an independent judicial body has been crucial to justice in the United States, it has become clear the court has set aside its role in maintaining law and order within itself and that its role must be reinforced by other branches. Durbin asserted, "The Supreme Court needs to clean up its act and fast" and if the court continues to not act, "Congress must."

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Troubling data has been seen relating to Justice Neil Gorsuch as well. In 2017, Gorsuch and his wife closed on a house, with the buyer of the purchase left undisclosed. It has been revealed Greenburg Traurig, a multinational law and lobbying firm, has been involved in at least 22 cases presented or seen before the court.

After disclosure reports were filed by the justices and posted June 7, Thomas and Justice Samuel Alito Jr. have asked for extensions, leaving questions in the air about why this might be.

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Robert Weiner, NATIONAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND ISSUES STRATEGIST Bob Weiner, a national issues and public affairs strategist, has been spokesman for and directed the public affairs offices of White House Drug Czar and Four Star General Barry ([more...](#))

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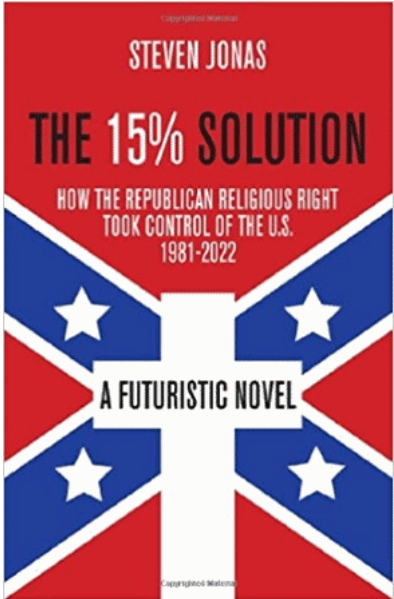
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