

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Lawyers' Groups Coalesce to Propose Code of Conduct for Supreme Court Justices**

BOSTON – [Lawyers Defending American Democracy](#) (LDAD) and the [Project On Government Oversight](#) (POGO) have released a proposed model code of conduct for Supreme Court Justices. With public trust in the Supreme Court of the United States at an historic low, the swift implementation of a formal code of conduct, where none exists today, is necessary to restore the public's confidence in this critical institution, state its authors.

**[Click to read the Model Code of Conduct on LDAD.org](#)**

Questions continue to be raised about whether Justices should recuse themselves from certain matters or whether there is a need for greater transparency with respect to their financial matters. It is time for the Court to operate with the clear ethical constraints that a publicly available and accessible code of conduct would require.

According to Lauren Stiller Rikleen, LDAD's executive director who was directly involved in the project:

*"The legitimacy of the Supreme Court depends on the impartial administration of justice. Establishing a binding code of conduct will help the Justices make decisions for recusing themselves in matters where their ability to be impartial is at risk, and will provide specific guidelines to avoid conduct that may otherwise be outside ethical bounds."*

This proposed model code of conduct, developed by LDAD and POGO, is meant to initiate a conversation, and not necessarily be the final word about what should specifically be included in a Supreme Court code of conduct. But, states Sarah Turberville, Director of The Constitution Project at POGO, "Such a conversation is needed now, and should result in the swift adoption of a code."

In creating this draft, LDAD and POGO built on the existing code applicable to all other federal judges and added new language relating to: requirements for recusal arising out of the unique circumstances of service on the Supreme Court; the prohibition on participation in fundraising

events; the placement of assets in a blind trust; and additional disclosures about financing of travel and perquisites.

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**About Lawyers Defending American Democracy**

Founded in 2019, Lawyers Defending American Democracy (LDAD) is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to fostering adherence to the protection of the Constitution and the rule of law. LDAD has issued a variety of Open Letters and Statements calling for adherence by public officials to the rule of law and encouraging fellow lawyers, leaders of bar associations, and the legal academy to join in speaking out against threats to democracy. LDAD has also filed disciplinary complaints against lawyers who have violated their oath to protect the Constitution, for example, William P. Barr, Rudolph Giuliani, Jeffery Clark, Kenneth Paxton, John Eastman, and Stefan Passantino. All letters, statements and briefs are available at <https://ldad.org/>.

**About The Project on Government Oversight**

The Project On Government Oversight (POGO) is a nonpartisan independent watchdog that investigates and exposes waste, corruption, abuse of power, and when the government fails to serve the public or silences those who report wrongdoing. POGO champions reforms to achieve a more effective, ethical, and accountable federal government that safeguards constitutional principles.