

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE... RESPECT IT.



We are the Montana members of the American Board of Trial Advocates. ABOTA is an organization of experienced courtroom attorneys, vetted by their peers, who are dedicated to protecting judicial independence and the right to jury trial and promoting civility and professionalism. We are made up equally of plaintiff lawyers and defense lawyers and come from across Montana. ABOTA does not favor one side or the other; it works to secure a fair and just legal system for everyone. We are concerned by recent attempts by some officials to politicize, intimidate, and dominate our courts and judges. While we have our disagreements among us, we *unanimously* believe that the independence of the judicial branch and respect for our Courts is essential--not only to a fair and just legal system but to the liberties guaranteed to us by the constitutions of Montana and the United States of America.

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WE ARE NOT ALONE.

"There is no liberty if the power of judging be not separated from the legislative and executive powers."
-**Founding Father Alexander Hamilton**

"We Americans must never give up this particular battle: the independence of the judiciary."
-**President Ronald Reagan**

"I believe that an independent judiciary is the crown jewel of our constitutional republic."
-**U.S. Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh**

"A free people cannot and will not exist without the complete independence of the judiciary."
-**Montana Governor Marc Racicot**

"The reality is that our independent judiciary is the most respected branch of our government and the envy of the world." -**Ted Olson**, Assistant Attorney General under President Ronald Reagan, Solicitor General under President George W. Bush

"I do not see Republican judges, and I do not see Democrat judges. I see judges."
-**Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch**

"President Ronald Reagan used to speak of the Soviet constitution, and he noted that it purported to grant wonderful rights of all sorts to people. But those rights were empty promises, because that system did not have

an independent judiciary to uphold the rule of law and enforce those rights."

-**Chief Justice of the United States John Roberts**

"Independence from political passions is the cornerstone of our judiciary in our country...Judicial independence is what enables courts to do justice even when it is unpopular; to protect constitutional rights even when powerful interests want them infringed." –
Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell

"Judicial independence was established to make the courts independent of the other branches and independent of popular view." **Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Charles Grassley**

"Our justice system and the very Rule of Law depend on the independence and authority of the judiciary."
-**U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions**

"Our effectiveness relies on the knowledge that we won't be subject to retaliation for our judicial acts.... If you believe, as [James] Madison and I do, that the courts are important guardians of constitutionally guaranteed freedoms in our common law system, you know that the system breaks down without judicial independence."
-**Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor**

CALL YOUR LEGISLATORS TODAY
AND URGE THEM TO RESPECT
JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE.

406-444-4800.



American Board
of Trial Advocates™