

October 2020

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are interrupting our series of articles on recent U.S. Supreme Court opinions. The recent death of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg gives President Donald Trump an opportunity to appoint another conservative justice to the U.S. Supreme Court. We have been pleased with Justice Gorsuch (somewhat) and Justice Kavanaugh who have demonstrated their conservative credentials. This month's Educational Update discusses the importance of the coming "Advice and Consent" procedure before the Senate Judiciary Committee and the U.S. Senate.

Justice Thomas has said and Justice Alito has intimated that *Roe v. Wade* is a flawed decision. We do not know how the new justices might vote on reversing *Roe* and stopping abortion. The national debate over that issue has not receded in 47 years and the lines between support and non support of the opinion are clear. It is not necessary or proper to ask the question and expect an answer of whether a nominee would reverse *Roe*. You must rely on his or her judicial philosophy.

President Trump has nominated Judge Amy Coney Barrett to SCOTUS. She has a stellar record interpreting the Constitution as originally written. Expect her personal life and religious beliefs to be brutally attacked. They were when she sat through the confirmation hearing before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee when she was nominated to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in 2017. Her Christian faith was a problem for interrogator Senator Diane Feinstein, who did not seem to realize that Article VI of the U.S. Constitution forbids a religious test to hold public office. We believe the coming Advice and Consent process will demonstrate how little regard liberals have for religion, particularly Christianity. Pray for this process and urge our senators to vote for Judge Barrett.

On another matter, we have heard reports that some churches have begun operating without regard to safety guidelines from the CDC, ADPH and others. We know there are some constitutional issues that have been raised in a few places, including a recently filed case in Alabama. There are some important profound feelings that individuals have about the integrity of the church and its protection from the government. We refer to our discussion of "the Coronavirus and Religious Freedom" in our April 2020 Educational Update. We have requested and Governor Kay Ivey has worked to clarify the rights of churches to meet without discrimination in the policies. Covid is certainly not past history and we urge churches to carefully consider their policies. Let us know if you have questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continuing support. We appreciate your partnership with us.

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston