

# AL NAACP NEWS

## Alabama State Conference National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

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July 10, 2018  
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ALABAMA NAACP OPPOSE NOMINATION OF BRETT KAVANAUGH FOR U.S. SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

On July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018, President Donald J. Trump announced his Supreme Court pick to replace Justice Anthony Kennedy to be Brett Kavanaugh, a former Kennedy clerk who serves on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. On a day when the country should be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees every person equal treatment under the law. Ironically, we are opposing a nomination by a sitting president under criminal investigation, one who has multiple lawsuits pending against his policies and corrupt administration and a president who defiantly makes policies based of his racist and bias views.

President Barack Obama nominated Merrick Garland to fill Anthony Scalia's seat on the Supreme Court on March 16, 2016. Judge Merrick Garland was denied a hearing, arguing that the right to name a justice ought to be left to Mr. Obama's successor. We also believe that this Supreme Court pick should be left until after the mid-term elections. Already four people in his administration have been charged criminally, associated with Trump Campaign and possible Russian collusion to our democratic electoral process. "This pick should not come from this careless and reckless president," said Benard Simelton, President of the Alabama NAACP. "Moreover, the countless mistreatment against Americans everyday proves the Fourteenth Amendment to be futile," added Simelton.

As Justice Anthony Kennedy prepares his exit on July 31<sup>st</sup> and retires from the bench, his departure should guard his legacy in fighting for human rights, women's rights, the rights of the LGBT community, and the civil rights of African Americans, and people of color.

Instead, with the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh, many of those rights hang in the balance if Kavanaugh is confirmed. It could set back the Civil Rights gains for the past 60 years that this nation gained. Rather than a Kavanaugh, President Trump should be looking for a Thurgood Marshall type justice to nominate to the Supreme Court.

"We join our friends in the Senate as we believe with them that Trump's Supreme Court Justice nominee, Judge Kavanaugh, represents a direct and fundamental threat to women's rights, human rights and the rights of people of color and the rights of the LGBT community. For Alabamians, this could further diminish our health care and make our criminal justice system worse," said Simelton. This Supreme Court justice will play a pivotal role in reshaping America.

"Before, during and after the Civil Rights era, the NAACP and other organizations fought hard for the Civil Rights and protections of every American. It's time to boot up again," said Simelton.

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