

## Monitoring Influence:

Leonard Leo & His Network's Vast Influence Campaign Against Our Democracy



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The vast web of politically motivated organizations and the mega-donors who fund them have extraordinary influence over our political discourse, and our elections. Many harbor extremist ideologies and push antidemocratic, anti-American agendas while drowning out the voices of ordinary citizens.

Monitoring Influence exposes the connections between these political actors and their donors who frequently hide in the shadows, so the American people understand who is behind these efforts and are empowered to push back against them.

## The Capture of America's Courts

The first set of organizations, individuals, and donors Accountable.US is highlighting are part of a decades-long project to reshape

America's judicial system in their own image – installing conservative activists on the courts, exerting influence over hiring at law schools, and creating a pipeline that seeks to entrench far right ideologies in positions of power.

The mastermind behind this effort is little known conservative powerbroker Leonard Leo. Leo and the larger conservative legal movement realized long ago that they could not achieve their goals through a democratic legislative process because their agenda is so profoundly unpopular. Instead, they have sought to stack the courts with judges who will rule to allow partisan gerrymandering, undermine voting rights, and strip away constitutional protections that prior courts have long held sacrosanct.

In order to advance this fringe movement's agenda, Leo built a sprawling, shadowy network of fringe right-wing organizations funded by ultra-wealthy donors under the veil of secrecy. From well-known organizations like the Federalist Society and the Judicial Crisis Network to more obscure outfits like BH Group and the 85 Fund that act as little more than shell groups to keep their wealthy donors hidden, they all play a role in advancing the right's fringe agenda.

The American people deserve to know who these individuals and groups are and their efforts to push a right-wing agenda. The report profiles and provides an in-depth analysis of Leo and 11 of his most influential hard-right groups.

## **View The Profiles**

