



Hon. Robert M. Dow, Jr.
Counselor to the Chief Justice
Supreme Court of the United States
One First Street NE
Washington, D.C., 20543

Hon. Robert J. Conrad, Jr.
Director, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts
Thurgood Marshall Building
One Columbus Circle NE
Washington, D.C., 20002

May 1, 2026

Dear Judge Dow and Director Conrad:

This is Gabe Roth of Fix the Court, and I write today to request that both the Supreme Court and the lower federal courts officially prohibit justices, federal judges and their staffs from participation in predication markets.

The explosion of these markets in the last few months cannot be overstated. Though the rise in online gambling in the last decade had mostly been attributed to major sporting events, now anyone can wager money on major national and international events, from [rate-setting](#) at the Fed to the timing of diplomatic [summits](#) to the beginning and end of [wars](#).

These markets also allow people to gamble on the results of Supreme Court [decisions](#), when a justice [may step down](#) and who their [replacement](#) might be.

There is little doubt that judges' and justices' participation in prediction markets on issues that impact them — cases and potential retirements, especially — would likely violate the Code of Conduct for U.S. Judges and the Supreme Court Code of Conduct, respectively. Such participation would also violate the ethical codes that law clerks and other judiciary staff sign on to, the adherence to which is often a requirement for their employment.

That said, recent leaks of insider information from the judiciary to the press demonstrate that certain individuals may be seeking to use their knowledge to their advantage in some way. It would be a shame to see prediction markets enter these individuals' calculations.

In light of these points, and following the Senate on April 30 [banning](#) participation in prediction markets by senators and their staffs, I believe it is important to proactively institute the same prohibition in the third branch.

Whether this comes as an addendum to the Code of Conduct for the Supreme Court or an ethics advisory opinion issued by the Codes of Conduct Committee for the lower courts, or if it's simply two press releases stating that a ban is in effect for both levels is of little consequence to those who care deeply about the ethical behavior of our federal judges and justices.

What's important is that with so much at stake, jurisprudentially and financially, in issues that are before the federal courts, and especially in the Supreme Court at this time of year, it is important for the public to hear a clarion call asserting branchwide adherence to the highest ethical standards in light of this rising danger. I look forward to responses from you and from the branch.

Sincerely,
Gabe Roth
Executive Director
Fix the Court