

**THE SUPREME COURT APPOINTMENTS OF PRESIDENT CLINTON  
(OR PRESIDENT CLINTON AND THE SUPREME COURT)**

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**ABSTRACT**

Deliberation as much as politics marked President Bill Clinton's two searches for Supreme Court justices. He wanted a moderate justice, one in the center on most issues but also reflecting his views on the most important issues, and a nominee who would be easily confirmable. When he came to the White House, he had in mind as a nominee New York governor Mario Cuomo and perhaps Judge Richard Arnold, but landed up appointing two very different persons, Ruth Bader Ginsburg in 1993 and Stephen Breyer in 1994. This paper will discuss their appointments.

If the subject is expanded to Clinton and the Supreme Court, included would be the solicitor generalship; Clinton's views on various relevant legal subjects and his interest in politically charged ones, especially the position the administration should take in cases involving religion, obscenity and the Communications Decency Act (which divided the administration); his friendship with various federal judges and with Justice Blackmun; and Whitewater and impeachment.

Sources will largely be interviews with the participants in the process (or in the case of those deceased, close associates) and papers in libraries as well as those privately held.