



# BUT WHO GETS SAMMY ALITO IN THE DIVORCE?

Since I was traveling, I'm a bit late to Trump's fantastic 510-word Truth Social post, in which he calls Leonard Leo a sleazebag and blames the Federalist Society that Trump-

appointed judges – including US Court of International Trade Judge Timothy Reif – have ruled against him and even suggests that people he calls “Radical Left Judges” are in cahoots with “very bad people” who by context must include Leo. ☐☐☐

Simply fantastic.

 **Donald J. Trump**   
@realDonaldTrump

1) [US Court of Trade ruled against me but it's on hold](#)  
The U.S. Court of International Trade incredibly ruled against the United States of America on desperately needed Tariffs but, fortunately, the full 11 Judge Panel on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit Court has just stayed the order by the Manhattan-based Court of International Trade. Where do these initial three Judges come from? How is it possible for them to have potentially done such damage to the United States of America? Is it purely a hatred of “TRUMP?” What other reason could it be? I was new to Washington, and it was suggested that I use The Federalist Society as a recommending source on Judges. I did so, openly and freely, but then realized that they were under the thumb of a real “sleazebag” named Leonard Leo, a bad person who, in his own way, probably hates America, and obviously has his own separate ambitions. He openly brags how he controls Judges, and even Justices of the United States Supreme Court — I hope that is not so, and don't believe it is! In any event, Leo left The Federalist Society to do his own “thing.” I am so disappointed in The Federalist Society because of the bad advice they gave me on numerous Judicial Nominations. This is something that cannot be forgotten! With all of that being said, I am very proud of many of our picks, but very disappointed in others. They always must do what's right for the Country! In this case, it is only because of my successful use of Tariffs that many Trillions of Dollars have already begun pouring into the U.S.A. from other Countries, money that, without these Tariffs, we would not be able to get. It is the difference between having a rich, prosperous, and successful United States of America, and quite the opposite. The ruling by the U.S. Court of International Trade is so wrong, and so political!

2) [The judges must be at fault](#)  
3) [It's Leonard Leo's fault](#)  
4) [Leonard Leo is a "sleazebag"](#)  
5) [Does Leo control SCOTUS? I hope not](#)  
6) [I'm blaming the Federalist Society that judges don't rule for me](#)  
7) [Judges must support me](#)  
8) [I'm going to lie about the tariffs being good](#)  
9) [Because CFT ruled against me it must be political](#)  
10) [SCOTUS \(not Federal Court of Appeals\) must reverse](#)  
Hopefully, the Supreme Court will reverse this horrible, Country threatening decision, QUICKLY and DECISIVELY. Backroom “hustlers” must not be allowed to destroy our Nation! The horrific decision stated that I would have to get the approval of Congress for these Tariffs. In other words, hundreds of politicians would sit around D.C. for weeks, and even months, trying to come to a conclusion as to what to charge other Countries that are treating us unfairly. If allowed to stand, this would completely destroy Presidential Power — The Presidency would never be the same! This decision is being hailed all over the World by every Country, other than the United States of America. Radical Left Judges together with some very bad people, are destroying America. 15) [I'm going to lie some more about the tariffs being good](#)  
Under this decision, Trillions of Dollars would be lost by our Country, money that will, MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN. It would be the harshest financial ruling ever leveled on us as a Sovereign Nation. The President of the United States must be allowed to protect America against those that are doing it Economic and Financial harm. Thank you for your attention to this matter!

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I've annotated the post to unpack the treatise, which reads as if Peter Navarro and Mike Davis got together, chomped a bunch of hallucinogens, and stole the keys to Trump's Truth Social account.

The key points are:

- The tariffs are – Trump lies, repeatedly – super duper good!
- The US Court of International Trade ruled they're illegal, but the Federal Court of Appeals (which disappears later in this screed) put that ruling on hold
- Leonard Leo (and not Mike Davis, who played a central role in confirming judges during Trump's first Administration) must be responsible every time a Trump-appointed judge rules against Trump, because it surely can't be the law and surely can't be Trump's (or Mike Davis') shitty picks
- *And therefore* (there's really no therefore here – it does not logically follow at all) SCOTUS must reverse this decision

I've been tracking the significance of right wing support for these tariff challenges from the start.

It *matters* that not just a Leonard Leo-funded group but also a Koch-backed group opposed

Trump's tariffs – and his unconstitutional power grab in imposing them – even before Gavin Newsom and then a bunch of other Democratic states did (last week's decision pertained to the Koch-funded effort; the one associated with Leo is still pending). It matters that there are some issues that are so dear to right wing jurisprudence (or pocketbooks) and are so clearly reserved for Congress that left, right, and centrist opposition to Trump can agree on those issues. It matters that the topic at hand, Trump's tariffs, have already done so much damage to the US economy and stature in the world.

This treatise appears to be an attempt to deal with both those issues: Trump has been ruled to have violated the law over and over again, including (increasingly) by Trump-appointed judges and if SCOTUS sides with the Koch Foundation and Democratic states on this, it'll be an enormous rebuke to Trump's unlawful power grabs.

This legal case is one that threatens his entire bid to authoritarian power, not because it is key to codifying his police state, politicizing government, or destroying civil society – the other topics that SCOTUS has and will review in months ahead – but because it unifies left, right, and center.

And so Trump implores SCOTUS, a SCOTUS on which his two most reliable allies, Clarence Thomas and Sammy Alito, also happen to have benefitted from a lifetime of Leo's lucrative attention, to "QUICKLY and DECISIVELY" side with him here. Poor Trump even whimpers, "I hope that is not so, and don't believe it is!" that Leo controls SCOTUS, because if he did (the post implies) Trump would lose this case.

Perhaps Trump means this as a challenge to Clarence and Sammy's self-respect.

As I said, I got to this *fantastic* post late. Much ink has been spilled about the extent to which this reflects a real break from Leo's

vetting of judicial candidates. Certainly Davis has promised to find real nutjobs in this second term. The screed appeared the day after Pam Bondi wrote the American Bar Association to tell them she believed their adherence to legal standards made them biased and so would exclude them from reviewing Trump's judicial nominees. So it may well just be an effort to roll out a wider approach to installing hack judges.

That's an interesting and important question; after all, Trump has yet to confirm *any* judge this term, so it's possible that without Leo's diligence, Trump simply won't stack the courts like he did his first term. It's also true that (as this post and his recent nomination of Emil Bove makes clear) Trump's litmus test for judges going forward will be fealty to him, not the law.

But in the short term, I'm most interested in who gets Sammy Alito in the divorce. Who gets the hundreds of judges Trump appointed his first term. Who gets Aileen Cannon. Who gets everyone else who owes a decade of career advancement to Leo's curation and care?

I imagine, in the short term, this is meant just like it reads. "Thank you for your attention to this matter!" Trump concludes, after giving SCOTUS an order. Don't let Leonard Leo tell you what to do, that's my job!

But it could well backfire among judges who do owe allegiance to the networks Leo built.