

Supreme Court References

Demographics of the Supreme Court of the United States (2022)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_the_Supreme_Court_of_the_United_States)

[Demographics_of_the_Supreme_Court_of_the_United_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_the_Supreme_Court_of_the_United_States)

New Evidence That The Rich Are More Conservative Than the Rest (2017)

<https://www.huffpost.com/entry/new-evidence-that-the-rich-are-more-conservative-than-the-rest>

The Ultra-Rich Are Ultra-Conservative (2019)

<https://jacobin.com/2019/07/billionaires-and-stealth-politics>

Economic Demographics of Republicans (2020)

<https://www.debt.org/faqs/americans-in-debt/economic-demographics-republicans/>

Wealthy conservative Catholics are the new US magisterium (2021)

<https://www.ncronline.org/opinion/guest-voices/wealthy-conservative-catholics-are-new-us-magisterium>

The 'cloistered' Harvard-Yale law monopoly on the Supreme Court (2018)

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2018/07/10/the-cloistered-harvard-yale-law-monopoly-on-the-supreme-court/>

So much for diversity on the Supreme Court — at least when it comes to the education of the nine justices.

There are, according to the American Bar Association, slightly more than 200 accredited law schools in the United States. But assuming the newly nominated federal judge Brett M. Kavanaugh will be confirmed by the Senate to succeed the retiring Anthony M. Kennedy, all nine justices of the nation's highest court would have attended law school at either Yale or Harvard universities.

And all but one would have received their law degree from one of those two Ivy League schools. Ruth Bader Ginsberg earned a law degree from another school — Columbia — after transferring from Harvard Law School.

Obviously Harvard and Yale are excellent schools — even if they take different approaches to teaching the law, with Yale more theoretical.

But the idea there is such little diversity on the court when it comes to law school is a problem. In 2016, Dan Glickman, a former secretary of agriculture and former congressman who is now a senior fellow at the Bipartisan Policy Center, explained why [on the Bloomberg Government blog](#):

Now, both of these prestigious institutions rank among the best universities in the world. Clearly, no matter what side of the aisle you come from, we all want intelligent people on the Supreme Court. But these schools do not have a monopoly on producing smart lawyers. When an individual is able to, through force of intellect, matriculate and excel at Harvard or Yale Law they prove beyond a shadow of a doubt they are among the top minds in America's legal community. However, there is a certain cloistered nature to joining this elite community. People of this pedigree often live in a world that does not necessarily parallel the life experiences of most Americans. And that is where more diversity is needed.

Academic history of the current court

Name	Appt. by	College	Law school
<u>John Roberts (Chief Justice)</u>	<u>G. W. Bush</u>	<u>Harvard</u>	<u>Harvard</u>
<u>Clarence Thomas</u>	<u>G. H. W. Bush</u>	<u>Holy Cross</u>	<u>Yale</u>
<u>Samuel Alito</u>	G. W. Bush	<u>Princeton</u>	Yale
<u>Sonia Sotomayor</u>	<u>Obama</u>	Princeton	Yale
<u>Elena Kagan</u>	Obama	Princeton	Harvard
<u>Neil Gorsuch</u>	<u>Trump</u>	<u>Columbia</u>	Harvard
<u>Brett Kavanaugh</u>	Trump	<u>Yale</u>	Yale
<u>Amy Coney Barrett</u>	Trump	<u>Rhodes</u>	<u>Notre Dame</u>
<u>Ketanji Brown Jackson</u>	Biden	Harvard	Harvard

The table below shows the religious affiliation of each of the justices sitting as of July 2022:

Religious makeup of the current court

Name	Religion	Appt. by	On the court since
John Roberts (Chief Justice)	Catholicism	G. W. Bush	2005
Clarence Thomas	Catholicism	G. H. W. Bush	1991
Samuel Alito	Catholicism	G. W. Bush	2006
Sonia Sotomayor	Catholicism	Obama	2009
Elena Kagan	Judaism	Obama	2010
Neil Gorsuch	Anglicanism/Catholicism ^{[86][88]}	Trump	2017
Brett Kavanaugh	Catholicism	Trump	2018
Amy Coney Barrett	Catholicism	Trump	2020
Ketanji Brown Jackson	Protestantism	Biden	2022