

2025 LWVUS Federal Judiciary Study

1. (untitled)

League Information

State : Minnesota
League Name : LWV Of ABC
League ID : MN401

Name of Individual Responding

Pat Kennedy

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Secondary Person to be Included on This Form

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Date of League Consensus Meeting

04/14/2025

Was your meeting

In-person

2. (untitled)

1. Transparency is essential to an effective Federal Judiciary.

Strong consensus FOR

Please add any information you wish to share about your League's answer on this question (up to 100 words).

Ethics is tied to transparency.

2. Accountability is essential to an effective Federal Judiciary.

Strong consensus FOR

3. Independence is essential to an effective Federal Judiciary.

Strong consensus FOR

Please add any information you wish to share about your League's answer on this question (up to 100 words).

make sure it applies to Supreme Ct

4. Ethics is essential to an effective Federal Judiciary.

Strong consensus FOR

Please add any information you wish to share about your League's answer on this question (up to 100 words).

Uniformity between federal cts and supreme ct

3. (untitled)

5. There should be binding universal standards of conduct for judges and Justices at all levels of the Federal courts.

Strong consensus FOR

6. Court hearings, documents filed in the court, and rulings for all federal cases should be open and available to the public.

NO consensus

Please add any information you wish to share about your League's answer on this question (up to 100 words).

Should identify how each judge voted.

Not well written question, not clear which documents, which hearings. There may be circumstances in which documents should not be public.

7. There should be an effective enforcement mechanism for the Federal Judiciary code of ethics at all levels.

Strong consensus FOR

Please add any information you wish to share about your League's answer on this question (up to 100 words).

League should suggest panel of retired judges, ie judicial conference. Oath of Office should include adherence to code of ethics. Oath should include standards and consequences for not adhering to the standards.

8. An enforcement mechanism should include a process to require a judge or Justice to recuse him or herself when a reasonable litigant would believe that the judge or Justice has a bias against any party or an issue raised in the case.

Strong consensus FOR

9. A judge or Justice's decision and rationale to recuse or not recuse should be publicly disclosed in writing.

Strong consensus FOR

Please add any information you wish to share about your League's answer on this question (up to 100 words).

Might be personal reasons for recusing. Rationale more important when not recusing themselves.

10. Federal judges and Justices should be subject to rigorous financial disclosure requirements, enforcement, and penalties for all financial benefits, including but not limited to income, gifts, paid speaking engagements, and book deals.

Strong consensus FOR

Please add any information you wish to share about your League's answer on this question (up to 100 words).

Poorly worded. Penalties and enforcement for failing to disclose. Strong support for disclosure. Book deal may not be an ethical concern.

11. Stability of law (stare decisis) is a value that contributes to a strong democracy.

Strong consensus FOR

12. Public perception of the Supreme Court's legitimacy contributes to a strong democracy.

Strong consensus FOR