

(proposed) Headline- Kavanaugh: Beyond the Hearing

The media has spoken quite a bit about the hearing of Brett Kavanaugh, but how has he been qualified to be selected, what ideals will he bring to the supreme court, and how has his hearing affected citizens across the united states?

Brett Kavanaugh was nominated by Trump in September of 2018 to fill the spot of the retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy.

Brett Kavanaugh was nominated by Trump by being part of a list of 25 names of recommended candidates provided by the Federalist Society. The Federalist Society is a large right-wing network that grooms conservative law students still in law school, links them together, mentors them, finds them jobs, and eventually places them in courts and in government.

One of the Federalist Society's main associates is Leonard Leo, and is the creator of the list of recommendations.

“No, not really, they're all fine candidates.” said Leo when asked if there were any potential star candidates on the list by CBS news “You could throw a dart at that list and in my view, you'd be fine.”

Speculations on why Kavanaugh was chosen stem from the fact that Kavanaghs conservative beliefs line up with Trump. He also is appreciated by many conservative government officials

Kavanaugh is much loved in legal circles as an originalist by Justice Clarence Thomas and former Justice Antonin Scalia.

Another supporter is conservative J.D. Vance, who wrote the best-selling *Hillbilly Elegy*, recently made a case for Kavanaugh in *Wall Street Journal*, who happened to be one of his professors at Yale Law School.

“He is a committed textualist and originalist, one whose time on the bench has revealed a unique ability to apply these principles to legal facts,” Vance wrote. “He deeply believes in the constitutional separation of powers as a means for ensuring governmental accountability and protecting individual liberty.”

Kavanagh was also shown siding with Trump's views when he helped his administration by dissenting in a ruling that allowed an undocumented minor to undergo an abortion.

Kavanaugh did come with plenty of credentials and experience to show for. He went to college for law at Yale University and Yale Law School, which also produced current Supreme Court justices Clarence Thomas, Sonia Sotomayor, and Samuel Alito.

In 1993, Kavanaugh served as a law clerk to Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, providing him useful knowledge and hands on experience helping in the supreme court.

In 1998, Kavanaugh was associate counsel on the team led by Kenneth Starr, the special prosecutor who investigated former President Bill Clinton's extramarital affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky. As part of Starr's team, Kavanaugh helped draft the report recommending Clinton's impeachment.

Kavanaugh has also served on the D.C Circuit Court since 2006.

These credentials give Kavanaugh reason to be chosen, but what many politicians and voters are interested in are his political views, and how they can drastically change the ideals of the U.S Supreme Court.

Kavanaugh has expressed his ideals in his report for Clinton's impeachment and in other cases about how he doubts that the president can even be indicted while in office. This belief has made others such as Robert Muller, head of the Russia investigation against Trump, extremely worried about being able to pull Trump out of office for just reasons.

Kavanaugh's belief of the president's job security is another reason many believe why Trump chose to nominate Kavanaugh.

Once Kavanaugh was announced as Trump's nominee for the supreme court, Doctor Christine Blasey Ford decided to step forward and claim that Brett Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her. This claim sparked massive controversy on whether Kavanaugh is fit to be a Supreme Court Justice.

Many began to question Kavanaugh's reliability, with influencers such as John Oliver explaining how Kavanaugh's temperament and mistranslation of facts in his hearing shows how unqualified he is.

“There's a key part of this hearing that should cause you real concern...this week we saw Kavanaugh talk over senators, dodge questions, and conflate ‘doesn't recall something happening’ with ‘deny something happened’.”

Despite the backlash Kavanaugh has gotten, the U.S Senate has confirmed Kavanaugh through a 50-48 vote. Only one democrat voted yes for Kavanaugh along with all the republican senators, and all the other 48 democrats voted no.

Many are waiting with bated breath to see how Kavanaghs views could change the Supreme Court for years to come, for better or for worse.

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