

SFGate.com[Return to regular view](#)

Print This Article

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wednesday, January 18, 2006

Why Judge Alito should be confirmed

Editor -- Judge Samuel A. Alito Jr. listened to us regarding the little-known "no-citation rule" by which the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals makes 85 percent of its own decisions illegal to mention in our courts. As chairman of the Federal Appellate Rules Committee, he moved against strong opposition to abolish these rules because they conflict with basic principles underlying the rule of law.

Neither The Chronicle, nor any California judge reviewing California's similar practice, has demonstrated such a commitment to the rule of law, which, in our view, is far more important than Alito's position on any particular issue. He should be confirmed.

KENNETH J. SCHMIER**MICHAEL K. SCHMIER**

Emeryville

Editor -- Alito easily meets the only two standards that should be looked upon in the confirmation process: He is qualified and he is ethical. He deserves confirmation.

BOB LUTHER

Pleasanton

Editor -- In your Jan. 17 editorial, "Why Alito is the wrong choice," you neglected to mention the most urgent reason you had for opposing his nomination: He gave no assurances that he would not overturn Roe vs. Wade.

Alito would not invent phantom rights such as "privacy," which is not mentioned in the Constitution. In other words, he would not be the activist judge you'd like to see on the U.S. Supreme Court bench.

All these are some of the very reasons why Alito should be confirmed. In fact, you yourselves gave one of the very best reasons for confirming him when you mentioned his "impressive command of the Constitution and various milestone cases." We need more judges of Alito's stature.

JOHN VINSKO

Open online
in under 5 minutes!
Great Rates. No Fees. No Minimums

3.80%
Annual Percentage Yield

ING DIRECT
Save Your Money®

CLICK HERE Member FDIC