

A Better Wisconsin Together: High court hopefuls Dan Kelly and Jennifer Dorow stand by their radical, right-wing views

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MADISON, Wis. — At a recent forum, right-wing Wisconsin Supreme Court hopeful Dan Kelly stood by his opposition to strengthening anti-corruption rules for Wisconsin judges while fellow radical Jennifer Dorow didn't back down from her criticism of a landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling striking down a Texas law that banned consensual same gender relationships.

"From refusing to support rules to prevent corruption in our courts to abiding discrimination, Dan Kelly and Jennifer Dorow are right-wing judicial activists with radical views far from what the rest of us believe is the standard for fair courts and equal justice for all," commented A Better Wisconsin Together Executive Director Chris Walloch.

During his brief tenure as an appointee on the Wisconsin State Supreme Court, Dan Kelly opposed a petition brought by over 50 retired Wisconsin judges to strengthen standards on when judges should remove themselves from cases because of a conflict of interest.

The current recusal standards were adopted in 2010 by a conservative court majority and were literally written by special interests that spent millions of dollars to help elect them. The lax current standards are also supported by a right wing group with whom Kelly regularly sided while on the bench and whose board of directors made large contributions to his 2020 campaign. For the 2023 election, a representative of right-wing Illinois billionaire Dick Uihlein's Super PAC has said they

will spend “millions of dollars” to boost Dan Kelly.

When asked Monday if he believed he and his fellow right-wing justices on the court were right to reject the effort to strengthen anti-corruption court rules, instead of providing a direct answer, Kelly launched into a meandering soliloquy in which he absolved himself from responsibility and claimed it would be “extremely difficult” to set a standard.

Meanwhile, Jennifer Dorow stood by her discriminatory position, expressed in her application for a court appointment from former Republican Governor Scott Walker, that the decision in the case *Lawrence v. Texas* was the worst U.S. Supreme Court decision, calling it ...“judicial activism at its worst.”

The case Dorow cites as the “worst” struck down a Texas law that criminalized consensual sex between same sex couples as a violation of the 14th Amendment’s due process clause. The *Lawrence* decision re-affirmed a right to privacy and helped set the stage for the subsequent *Obergefell* decision recognizing same sex marriages.

When invited by a forum moderator to revise her answer and pick another case, Dorow refused to change her answer and instead appeared to read prepared talking points, unresponsive to the direct question, from a large binder.