

Imani Gandy: Hello, fellow law nerds. Welcome to another episode of Boom! Lawyered, a Rewire News Group podcast hosted by the legal journalism team that has serious questions and concerns about Clarence Thomas, and would like them addressed immediately. I'm Rewire News Group editor-at-large, Imani Gandy.

Jess Pieklo: And I'm Jess Pieklo, Rewire News Group's executive editor. Rewire News Group is the one and only home for expert repro journalism that inspires you to ask a few questions about what the hell is going on with Clarence Thomas, right? Because really, what is going on? And the Boom! Lawyered podcast is part of that mission. So a big thanks to our subscribers, and a welcome to our new listeners and viewers. Imani, it has been a minute. Look at me with cans on and stuff.

Imani Gandy: I know. We're on our rigs, we're in our homes, not on the road like we were for a while. Although being on the road with you was lovely. I must admit.

Jess Pieklo: Favorite life partner on the road.

Imani Gandy: Favorite life partner, absolutely. Yeah, so it's exciting being back, back to the old Rewire News Group studio, which is my house and your house separately.

Jess Pieklo: I mean, truly. And so I know I just saw you in person in D.C. for that live show, which for folks who were able to make it out, thank you. That was fantastic. And for those of you who caught it afterwards, also, thank you. Imani and I had so much fun. You would think that you'd be completely caught up on my life. But, guess what, Imani?

Imani Gandy: What, what?

Jess Pieklo: I've got some news.

Imani Gandy: News? Oh God.

Jess Pieklo: Yeah, no, it's good. It's good. Alright, ready?

Imani Gandy: Yes.

Jess Pieklo: Hold onto your butt. Rewire News Group has a billboard.

Imani Gandy: A bill, a what?

Jess Pieklo: A billboard! Truly, a billboard! I'm not kidding.

Imani Gandy: I'm not sure I understand what those words mean. What's a billboard?

Jess Pieklo: Okay, so remember like the '90s? For example. And we would do things like go on road trips. Okay. And we'd be on the highway, and off the side of the road there'd be these big ass signs, right? Rewire News Group has a big ass sign.

Imani Gandy: We got a big ass sign?

Jess Pieklo: It's true!

Imani Gandy: I love big ass signs!

Jess Pieklo: It's true. Rewire News Group has decided to take what we're calling a Fuck Zuck approach to advertising.

Imani Gandy: Fuck Zuck, yeah.

Jess Pieklo: And we are going analog.

Imani Gandy: Digital ad companies make it really hard for us to get the word out about who we are, because they put up eight zillion rules about the word abortion. Of course, somehow, the CPCs, those fake clinics, always seem to skate through. Hmm? Strange.

Jess Pieklo: Weird.

Imani Gandy: So, we decided to take it to the streets! Attica, literally. Memphis, Tennessee. This is your chance to let us know if this kind of IRL, that's in real life, outreach from a nonprofit news outlet is what you want to see. Do you wanna see it? Follow us, talk to us. Memphis, Tennessee! It's so exciting.

Jess Pieklo: I love this, it's so exciting. And, you know, folks might be wondering why Memphis, for example. Well, okay. Tennessee has one of the worst abortion bans on the books right now, and its location is right next to Mississippi and Arkansas, which I don't know if you've noticed, Imani, aren't great, when it comes to abortion access.

Imani Gandy: Not great, Bob.

Jess Pieklo: Right now. And, you know, generally Memphis is just this cool, vibrant city that doesn't take any shit, kinda like us, you know? So, anyhow, we are so excited about this. Check out the billboard between the North I-40 loop and the Midtown 240 loop. I feel like I'm on a morning show, like finger guns. But truly, go check it out on that part of the road. Or if you're not in Memphis, if you're not in Tennessee, you can see it on Instagram. Follow us on Instagram and check it out. Tell us what you think. This is so exciting. Okay. You know what's much less exciting?

Imani Gandy: Oh God.

Jess Pieklo: The Supreme Court.

Imani Gandy: Yeah, the worst, I'd say. Jesus Christ.

Jess Pieklo: Oh my. What a clown show we have going on right now. And so today we are gonna talk about the stink of corruption that's emanating from the Supreme Court, because, holy hell, it smells!

It's really bad. And, you know, point of fact, let's table set here. The Supreme Court is corrupt.

Imani Gandy: Corrupt!

Jess Pieklo: Corrupt. And so corrupt that during the Senate Judiciary Committee hearings last week about the very obvious fact that the Supreme Court was corrupt, the Republicans thought, "You know, we could play along, or we could do the best Now This Is Music hits from the '90s." I don't know why I shimmied, but I love the heavy '90s vibe on all of this episode. But, you know, they pulled out their old hit about Clarence Thomas being subjected to a high-tech lynching.

Imani Gandy: Sorry, that's Now This Is Music.

Jess Pieklo: And those mean Democrats. Imani, they were writing mean things in the lame stream media. It was mean.

Imani Gandy: Okay, but Jess, literally, who cares? Like, who cares? Who cares if Democrats are being mean? They weren't being mean, but even if they were, who cares? The hearing last week wasn't about Thomas' confirmation hearing 30 years ago. It's just, that's not what it was about.

Jess Pieklo: It wasn't, you're right. It's not. It's about reports that came out last month, which feels like five lifetimes ago in Supreme Court scandals. Right. But, I mean, it was about reports from last month about Clarence Thomas' relationship with his, this guy's great, right? Harlan Crow. His Nazi-memorabilia-collecting billionaire friend, right?

It was also about reports regarding some other dodgy Supreme Court justices, most of them conservatives.

Imani Gandy: And that's what we're gonna talk about today, dear listeners, readers. Readers? There's no people reading this.

Jess Pieklo: Readers? People might read this.

Imani Gandy: People might read the podcast. That's true! That is true! Good point!

Jess Pieklo: I've got you, Imani.

Imani Gandy: Thank you, Jess. You always have my back. But that's what we're gonna talk about, the Supreme Court, these dirty, corrupt motherfuckers.

Alright. First thing, what we're gonna talk about, SCOTUS justices, they're dirty, rotten scoundrels, and not in the good Michael Caine way.

Jess Pieklo: I was gonna say. And not in the fun, endearing way.

Imani Gandy: Exactly. So, we all know about Clarence Thomas and his Nazi tchotchke collecting billionaire friend, Harlan Crow. And I just need to say from the outset that a lot of people were trying to defend this man by saying, "Oh, he was just collecting Nazi memorabilia for historical value. He's a collector." I'm sorry, but there is not a person in the world who collects Nazi memorabilia who isn't also a Nazi enthusiast. Like, that's just not a thing people do. You might see something and be like, "Huh, interesting."

But you're not gonna put it in your house behind a glass case. I'm sorry. If you collect memorabilia, you're an enthusiast. So, Clarence Thomas and his Nazi enthusiast friend, Harlan Crow, like to take trips just around the world. Lavish trips on Harlan Crow's yacht, half billion dollar trips to Indonesia. He's rubbing toes, you know, toes that are in sandals and socks for some reason with other rich clowns who are also wearing socks and sandals. Look, I'm just saying, there was some-

Jess Pieklo: I did not need that image.

Imani Gandy: There was some real questionable shoe choices in that painting that Harlan Crow has. You know, that huge painting of Leonard Leo and Mark Paoletta, and Clarence Thomas, Jesus Christ. Just guys, when you get to a certain age, don't feel the need to put socks on before you put sandals on. The sandals are just fine, just fine. At any rate, Crow also paid for Clarence Thomas' mama's house.

Jess Pieklo: His mother's house!

Imani Gandy: His mom, Big Mama's house! Like, what in the hell is going on?

Jess Pieklo: And since this, since Imani put together this script, we also found out that Harlan Crow paid some tuition. You know, I mean, truly, it's the drip, drip, drip of the scandal that is, you know, wild and also completely predictable.

Imani Gandy: Can we talk about the tuition thing for a minute, right?

Jess Pieklo: Oh yeah.

Imani Gandy: This is a man who, quote, who has said that, "He was raising this kid like his own son." He actually disclosed that there was a gift of like \$50,000, \$5,000 from somebody else to his son, but then didn't disclose the tuition, the \$150,000 in tuition, that Harlan Crow was paying.

And there are people, there are conservatives on Twitter defending this by saying, "Well, the disclosure rules only say you have to disclose gifts to sons, daughters, stepsons, And stepdaughters doesn't say anything about grandnephews, even though Clarence said that he was raising this kid as his son. And even though he knew that he should disclose because he disclosed gifts to the same kid. I mean, it's just horseshit upon bullshit upon pine cones. It's like just too much.

Jess Pieklo: Upon pine cones. And why do you pay the tuition directly to the school rather than to the Thomases? Well, 'cause then you'll avoid the tax disclosure. I don't know, little light tax fraud.

Imani Gandy: A little light tax fraud never hurt anybody.

Jess Pieklo: Okay, but to be fair, Imani, right, it's not just Clarence Thomas, right?

Imani Gandy: It's not!

Jess Pieklo: He happens to really be sort of in the thick of it right now.

Imani Gandy: And here's the thing, they want it to be about Clarence Thomas. They want to make this all about race so it can be about Democrats being mean to the Black guy who succeeded Thurgood Marshall, right? They wanna make it about race. But it's not just Black people, man! It's not about race, Whitey's on the moon too!

Jess Pieklo: White, like Neil Gorsuch.

Imani Gandy: Yes, that's the Whitey and he is on the moon, to quote Gil Scott-Heron.

Jess Pieklo: He is out there. Last month it was reported that Neil Gorsuch is corrupt too. Here's my shocked face on that, right? Like, now is this to the degree that we've seen with the Thomas stuff? Not quite, but this one is really not great. So, in 2005, Neil Gorsuch purchased a property in Colorado with a group of other people, alright? And property out here in Colorado is not cheap. I don't know if you've noticed that. In 2015, the group decided to sell the property. Good time to put something on the market, lots moving, except this property apparently wasn't. Then, amazingly in 2017 after Gorsuch ascended to the Supreme Court, the property sold for a buyer for a cool \$1,825,000, Imani. That's nice.

Imani Gandy: Yeah, that's pretty pleasant. You know, couldn't sell the property, and then he got on the bench and suddenly big offer.

Jess Pieklo: Hey, I mean, look, when you make big moves in life the universe opens up all sorts of doors for you, right? Right? So Gorsuch got between a quarter and a half a million dollars on this sale, which, hey, you know, he actually listed on his federal disclosure forms.

Imani Gandy: Wait, so at least he listed it, right? I mean, Thomas couldn't even be bothered to disclose anything because he claims he was advised that he and his wife's close friendship with the Nazi memorabilia enthusiast wasn't a real problem. So, Gorsuch listed it, who cares? Let's move on. Why are we picking on Gorsuch?

Jess Pieklo: Okay, well, because, Imani, he may have reported it, but he left out the identity of the purchaser, just left it blank. Like, "Sure, I sold a property, but to some Joe."

Imani Gandy: Oh, great. So who was the some Joe?

Jess Pieklo: So, it's shady as fuck to start with just not disclosing it, because that's a mandatory disclosure, by the way. But now we know that the purchaser was the CEO of this big law firm called Greenberg Traurig. And would it surprise you to learn that that law firm has been involved in some odd 22 cases before the Supreme Court?

Imani Gandy: Okay, but Jess, I don't know why I'm doing this, but I'm gonna continue to try to give your bearded paramour because, let's remember, yeah, you were hot for that pandemic beard. I'm just saying, things happened. It was a heady time. But we have to be honest with ourselves.

Jess Pieklo: Look, I'm not proud. I'm not proud. We all did what we needed to do to get through the pandemic. And I may have developed a little crush on Justice Gorsuch in a bad moment.

Imani Gandy: It happens. But let's give him the benefit of the doubt, right?

Jess Pieklo: Really?

Imani Gandy: This doesn't necessarily mean- Really, like, "Do we have to?" But it doesn't necessarily mean that he was ruling in favor of this firm's clients, right? I mean, maybe he just took his quarter, half million dollars and just was like,

Jess Pieklo: "Thanks man, this is great." I mean, you're right, not necessarily, and I would honestly have to go back and research all of the cases and then figure out the outcomes. And, I mean, in the year of our Lord 2023 who has time for that, Imani? Not me, not you.

But the point is, these kinds of disclosures are necessary to maintain the public trust in the Court. And, I don't know if you've noticed, but that public trust is kind of in the toilet.

Imani Gandy: Yeah, it's not good. It's not great. But, I mean, it's bad for the rule of law too, right?

Jess Pieklo: Oh, yeah. I mean, we're talking about the institution, but it's the institution that helps set the confidence in the rule of law. How can you have faith in anything these chipmunks published at this point? If they are out there taking functionally bribes, if they're on the take, like, Harlan Crow has apparently bought the Supreme Court. Good job, my man.

Imani Gandy: But it's not just Clarence, and it's not just your bearded paramour. There's also damning news about Brett Kavanaugh that just dropped, right? We all know about Justice Miller High Life, as my friend Tasha likes to call him.

Jess Pieklo: Hey, he just likes beer. Give the man a break. Can't a man like beer?

Imani Gandy: I like beer too. So it also turns out, you know, we know he got off the hook for being a sex-pest. You and I were at Harvard Law during the Christine Blasey Ford hearings. I mean, it was a wild time. And it was clear then that this man assaulted Ford. And it was also clear that he was a sex-pest in other ways.

Well, according to a new report from The Guardian, the Senate investigation into the Kavanaugh sex-pest question was basically crap, right? It turns out reports came out that should have come out then that apparently Kavanaugh just liked to, you know, drop trout and expose himself at parties when he was at Yale. Just forcing people to touch his genitals and jiggle his balls.

Jess Pieklo: Stop, no, no, no!

Imani Gandy: I mean, come on, man!

Jess Pieklo: It's not great. That's not. I need a moment. I'm sorry.

Imani Gandy: Okay, alright. Well, look, I wish it were true that it was only conservatives or only the men on the Court who were being trashed because either it's just the men and Amy Coney Barretts on the side of great, right, with Elena Kagan and Sonya Sotomayor and KBJ. The look on your face is like, "What?" But that's not the case. It would make for a nice narrative, make for a nice story. But that's not the case. It's not just the conservative men, although they are certainly the most egregious.

Jess Pieklo: They are, they are.

Imani Gandy: Jess, we gotta talk about our girl, Elena.

Jess Pieklo: My girl Elena. We share a birthday. I feel a close connection.

Imani Gandy: Taurus life. Livin' that Taurus life.

Jess Pieklo: And so Elena, my friend, we gotta talk.

Imani Gandy: My sister in Christ.

Jess Pieklo: My sister in Christ. This report that came out that shows that the conservative law school at George Mason named after Antonin Scalia.

Imani Gandy: Wait, wait, wait! Okay, do you recall that when this school was founded, like, 2017 after Scalia died, they had to change the name because initially it was called the Antonin Scalia School of Law. Now let's just sound that out acronym wise, A-S-S-O-L. Asshole School of Law! The Antonin Scalia School of Law was called the Asshole School of Law until George Mason changed it to add a bunch of words. It was like George Mason Presents Antonin Scalia's School of Law Brought To You By Antonin Scalia: Who Was Definitely Not an Asshole. Like, what a total fuck up that was. As you were.

Jess Pieklo: Oh, I need to collect myself after that moment as well, because I will never not think of this as the Asshole School of Law now. So, a new report showing that the Asshole School of law has been paying lavish trips for justices, and it just so happens that Elena Kagan was one of them.

Imani Gandy: Elena, no!

Jess Pieklo: You know better. So apparently Justice Kagan was a guest speaker at an event in Iceland, which frankly sounds lovely. It's delightful, yes. And now that's certainly not as bad as what the other justices have been accused of. And probably by the time we release this podcast, what new information and new scandal will have dropped by then. But generally, I'm just gonna say, it's not great, Bob.

Imani Gandy: It's not. But we do have to make it clear that it is a world of difference. Gorsuch also went on this Iceland trip, but he was teaching there and having all of his expenses paid. Elena flew in, gave a speech, and flew out. Right? Not as big of a deal. And then, of course, conservatives in the wake of the news about Clarence Thomas and his not-son, son person who Harlan Crow was paying practically.

Jess Pieklo: His ward. It's so Dickensian. His ward. Anyway, I've been thinking about that for a moment.

Imani Gandy: The conservatives are now very upset with Sonia Sotomayor, right? Because apparently Sonia Sotomayor got a \$3,000,000 advance for a book that she was publishing with Random House, and there was apparently a Random House case before the Court at that time.

Neil Gorsuch also had a book deal with that publisher and did not recuse himself. But apparently Stephen Breyer, a couple years prior, hey, that rhymed. Stephen Breyer, a couple years prior, did recuse himself. So conservatives are all up in arms, "Oh, Sonia Sotomayor should have recused herself." Blah, blah, blah. And it's like, You know what? Okay, that's fine. She should have recused herself. Elena Kagan maybe shouldn't have taken that trip. The point

is that there's not a code of ethics by which the Supreme Court is bound, and there should be a code of ethics that binds the Supreme Court. And that code of ethics should have consequences for anyone who does something that's fucking shady. Whether it's Thomas, whether it's Gorsuch, whether it's Kagan, whether it's Sotomayor. I'm not afraid to make liberals beholden to a code of ethics as they're not usually the ones that are doing this really absurd shit. Like, for example, let's not forget about our boy, Sammy Alito, right?

Last November there were reports about Sammy The Leak Alito leaking the Hobby Lobby opinion, right? The Hobby Lobby case, which was the case about birth control and whether for-profit corporations could claim Jesus as the reason for not wanting to provide birth control and their insurance plans, right? Sammy The Leak leaked that opinion to this guy who co-founded Operation Rescue. This guy's name is Reverend Rob Schenck. He wrote a letter to Chief Justice Roberts asking, or rather telling, Chief Justice Roberts that he had gotten his little mitts on a copy of the Hobby Lobby decision before the Hobby Lobby decision dropped. This was during the investigation of the Dobbs leak. You remember the Dobbs leak, which is about this year, a year ago, I mean.

Jess Pieklo: It was about a year ago.

Imani Gandy: Was about a year ago. Yeah, exactly. Well, during that investigation, remember how John Roberts was all, "We've gotta get to the bottom of this. This is such a betrayal of the public trust." Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. Well, sort of in connection with that, this guy, Schenck, wrote a letter saying that he was told the outcome of the 2014 Hobby Lobby case before it even became official.

Jess Pieklo: I had memory holed that because, let's remember just the whirlwind that we have been in since the Alito leak damn near over, just over a year ago. And I totally had forgotten that point. And, you know, Operation Rescue, not necessarily a group of fun folks to hang around, right?

Imani Gandy: Freaking terrorists!

Jess Pieklo: Paling around with terrorists to do a throwback to the Sarah Palin days. But, Robert Schenck somehow became this whistleblower against court corruption, which-

Imani Gandy: Okay, we'll take it.

Jess Pieklo: You know, and so his claim was basically that the Hobby Lobby decision was shared with a handful of conservative activists. This made Sam Alito big mad. He was very upset, spoke about it, denied disclosing the decision. But he did say that he had a casual and purely social relationship with Reverend Schenck's donors, the Wright family.

Imani Gandy: Oh boy.

Jess Pieklo: I mean, you know, who doesn't have casual and purely social relationships with big money donors that just so happened to be heavily invested in the issues before the Supreme Court? It was the Wright family who shared with Schenck that the Hobby Lobby decision would be favorable to conservatives. Imani and I did an entire episode on it.

Imani Gandy: I mean, Sam Alito is freaking ridiculous. And he's like, "We're all looking for the guy who did this." And we're all in that hotdog costume, that GIF. Like, "Ah, we dunno, we're all looking for the guy." We know who did it, Sam, we know it was you, and it breaks our heart.

Jess Pieklo: I mean, you're not fooling anyone, Sammy. You're really not. The bottom line is that the Supreme Court is leaking like a sieve, sieve, siv.

Imani Gandy: Sieve, siv. Same, same, same, but different, as they say in Thailand.

Jess Pieklo: It is though. It is full of leaks, full of corruption, full of stank. Really.

Imani Gandy: Stank! Stank ass court.

Jess Pieklo: I mean, the Supreme Court justices are cozying up with these conservative activists. They're accepting gifts, favorable real estate deals, and just finding a way to keep that all on the DL. No need to disclose that to the public. But, you know, Democrats are on it, Imani.

Imani Gandy: Oh yeah, they absolutely are.

Jess Pieklo: They're totally on it. And they did what Democrats do best-

Imani Gandy: Pass legislation?

Jess Pieklo: No. No. They sent a strongly worded letter.

Imani Gandy: Oh, well that's effective.

Jess Pieklo: Yeah, we know that a well-written letter to the editor is how things get done in Congress.

They also took it one step further though, not to give them just that hard of a time. They did call this hearing of the Senate Judiciary Committee to talk about the strongly worded leather-leather? Letter. And also, truly though, the need for just some kind of ethics at the Supreme Court, guys. Just a little bit of ethics, like a side of ethics.

Imani Gandy: Just like a sidepiece.

Jess Pieklo: An ethical sidepiece. It's been a long term, folks.

Imani Gandy: And we haven't even really gotten to the meat of it yet. Jesus Christ. So that's what we're gonna talk about next, what the Senate Judiciary hearing was all about.

Jess Pieklo: Hmm, bullshit, I'm guessing.

Imani Gandy: It was, yeah! I mean that's what they tried to make it about, right? At the hearing Republicans either ignored that the purpose of the hearing was to discuss the need for a code of ethics in order to begin restoring the public's faith in the Court. And instead they took it upon themselves to make the hearing primarily about Clarence Thomas, about how mean Democrats were to him starting way back in the Anita Hill confirmation hearing testimony days. None of the actual reason that we were here, that they were there. I wasn't there.

Jess Pieklo: No.

Imani Gandy: That they were there to talk about the Supreme Court. That didn't seem to matter. They just wanted to make it about Democrats being mad at the Court for making bad rulings.

Jess Pieklo: And you know that they really don't want reform, they really want the smoke around this to clear. Because not only were they making it about Democrats being mean to the Black guy on the Court, but they also try to just say, "Okay, well we can maybe see why some ethics here and there might be a good thing, right?" But even in that moment to try and create some veneer of reasonability for Meet The Press or wherever those clips would end up, they still somehow managed to make it all about Democrats being mean. Right?

Like, Lindsey Graham. Sir. He spent so much time defending members of the Court, but ultimately came out with this. And, I mean, I'm gonna say it, but your Lindsey Graham impression is much better than mine. "What I would urge the Court to do is take this moment to instill more public confidence."

Imani Gandy: Yeah, that wasn't racist sounding enough. I have a friend who used to say that Lindsey Graham's voice sounds like a whites only drinking fountain. So it's gotta be more like, "What I would urge the court to do is take this moment to instill more public confidence." My Southern accent isn't great.

Jess Pieklo: I do declare.

Imani Gandy: I do declare.

Jess Pieklo: Oh my God. But, like, truly because, you know what, John Roberts has done a bang up job so far of instilling a lot of confidence in the public trust of the Court, and suggesting that he's gonna do anything about this. But, it wasn't just Lindsey Graham.

Imani Gandy: Lindsey Graham.

Jess Pieklo: Chuck Grassley.

Imani Gandy: Oh God. Assume deer dead!

Jess Pieklo: That will never not be funny.

Imani Gandy: Never! It was like 12 years ago and it's still funny.

Jess Pieklo: That's a Twitter deep cut. If people Google "Chuck Grassley assume deer dead."

Alright. He seems to be in favor of some sort of action, but also this is like, you're gonna love the passive construction here. "It does appear there needs to be better oversight." By whom?

Imani Gandy: Yeah, from who? From where? What are you talking about, Charles? Jesus Christ. And also, even as he said that there kinda, maybe should be a little bit of oversight, he still dismissed the hearing as political theater. Right?

It's like they know that SCOTUS is fucked and they don't want to admit it. Or more likely is that they fucked it on purpose and now they're hiding it.

Jess Pieklo: That's the one. It's the Scooby reveal. Right? And it turns out it's Mitch McConnell under the mask. I mean, because rather than get involved and, I don't know, do something useful like propose a code of ethics, even the most milquetoast code of ethics. Like, "We think it might be a nice idea if you disclose some stuff, guys. 'Kay, thanks. Bye."

Imani Gandy: "'Kay, thanks. Bye."

Jess Pieklo: Right. Like the Republicans on the committee basically just ask the justices to think about it some and come back with with a couple of ideas. You know, we can bat 'em around.

Imani Gandy: Workshop them.

Jess Pieklo: Here's some top lines from Thom Tillis. Here's what he's asking for. "I think that they could update, refresh, and address the concerns without requiring any congressional action." He said. "Don't make me do my job, fellas."

Imani Gandy: That's the equivalent of a freaking pinky swear. Like, "Look, guys, we don't mean to be corrupt, it's just sometimes corruption happens. Corruption finds a way, right? And so, we're gonna try to be better, but we're not really promising anything." What the hell?

Jess Pieklo: I know. It's like we're getting into therapy, we're gonna do the shadow work, and we're gonna come out enlightened, and level up. We're digging in deep.

Imani Gandy: We're gonna do some journaling.

Jess Pieklo: Working on that third-eye chakra right here. Like, all of it. All of it. And, I mean, here's the cherry on top of this shit show. Sunday is John Roberts telling the Senate Judiciary Committee to get bent.

Imani Gandy: Yeah, he really did.

Jess Pieklo: They sent him a letter to show up and he was like, "Nah, I'm not gonna be doing that."

Imani Gandy: "Nah, bro. Thanks man, I'm good."

Jess Pieklo: And the letter is yammering about judicial independence and separation of powers and such. But it was basically like, "Mm, fuck you guys." That was his response.

Imani Gandy: And for the Republicans, that's a perfectly fine response. Like, they don't care. Right. And why don't they care? That's the third thing we're gonna talk about today. It's because they're all bought and paid for and they're all freaking liars.

Jess Pieklo: Liars!

Imani Gandy: Liars, liars!

Jess Pieklo: My neighbor just walked by and looked up and was like, "What is happening?"

Imani Gandy: Just makes you think, "Humperdinck, Humperdinck, humperdinck, humperdinck!" Oh God. The Supreme Court isn't all the way dead. It's just mostly dead.

Okay, so Politico was nice enough to put together a report about the ways in which Harlan Crow, Batman villain Harlan Crow, Nazi memorabilia enthusiast Harlan Crow, has essentially bought and paid for the Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee. Every single member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, except for Josh Hawley, has taken money from Harlan Crow, either directly or through various political action committees. Every single Republican member of the SJC, except for Josh Hawley.

Jess Pieklo: I know this is very serious. I shouldn't be laughing.

Imani Gandy: No, you shouldn't.

Jess Pieklo: But, how terrible of a human being do you have to be that the Nazis don't even like you and don't even wanna give you money.

Imani Gandy: Not great.

Jess Pieklo: Josh, sir. Do some work.

Imani Gandy: So this political report is fairly damning. Crow has given nearly a half million dollars to the Senate Judiciary Committee, Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee. Some people got more than others. John Cornyn was the biggest beneficiary. He got almost \$300,000. The smallest beneficiary was Marsha Blackburn. She got a, a paltry \$6,000.

Jess Pieklo: Well, that's sexist. Sorry.

Imani Gandy: Why can't she have more bribes too? And the rest of the amounts are around \$20,000, give or take a few thousand dollars. So look, we know Republicans aren't going to do anything.

So maybe the Supreme Court will choose to regulate itself. Maybe it will choose. Don't look at me like that. Maybe it'll choose to regulate itself more closely and be more transparent for the greater good. The greater good. That could happen, right?

Jess Pieklo: Not a fucking chance at that. Why would they bother, Imani?

Imani Gandy: Yeah, yeah. You're right.

Jess Pieklo: What we have learned from functionally Texas SB 8 and definitely the Dobbs decision and forward and forward is that this is a Court that does what it wants. This is a Court that just acts because it can, it has power and it's gonna wield it. And it gives nary a fuck the consequences are. Like, sure, maybe it would provide a veneer of transparencies.

But, let's think about this. If it's the justices, if it's Sam Alito and Clarence Thomas that get to decide what they report, what they don't report, and if there are any consequences at all for failing to report things, what do we think that's gonna look like? It's all theater. It is all theater.

Imani Gandy: But it was always political theater, right? And that's the problem. Each of these pine cones sat in their confirmation hearings insisting that Roe v. Wade was precedent. It was settled precedent. Sam Alito sat in his confirmation hearing and insisted that it was precedent. And then in the Dobbs opinion writes, "the Roe decision was egregiously wrong from the start."

If you think that now, there's not a chance in hell you didn't think that back then, Sam, considering you were the dissenting opinion in Planned Parenthood v. Casey. Your opinions on abortion didn't just spring up anew, like a rose from the bush two years ago, okay? You always felt this way, which means you lied like a lying liar in your confirmation hearing. Lies. I mean, It's so frustrating.

Jess Pieklo: And you know what's wild is that there's still a few of the conservatives who seem apparently kind of unscathed. I mean, we didn't even hit on John Roberts' wife getting millions and millions and millions of dollars to place clerks in fancy law firms. I'm waiting for the report

about Amy Coney Barrett to come out because you know that she was doing work with Alliance Defending Freedom and the Becket Fund to save babies from chemical abortions.

Imani Gandy: You've gotta save the babies. She was saving babies and working for what? The Blackstone Fellowship.

Jess Pieklo: With the Blackstone Fellowship, yeah. I mean, there's so much shady shit swirling around all of these folks. We need full congressional investigations. I mean, how do we respect anything that comes out of this Court?

Imani Gandy: We can't. We can't.

Jess Pieklo: It's an open question. And this is on John Roberts. Sorry, man. You're the dude at the top.

Imani Gandy: The dude at the top who really wanted his whole tenure to be about the legitimacy of the Court. And, frankly, this is the most illegitimate court, certainly in modern history, if not ever, as Jess slides into her chair and outta frame.

Jess Pieklo: I mean, it's bad news.

Imani Gandy: Bad news bears.

Jess Pieklo: It's so bad. Imani and I went to law school thinking that the law mattered. And now, as it turns out, it's just fake. It's all fake. Anyway. Vibes.

Imani Gandy: Vibes. So that's gonna wrap it up for us today, but we do want to mention again that we've got a billboard, baby!

We've got a billboard in Memphis, Tennessee. Go check it out. If you see it, tag me on Twitter or on Instagram. I wanna see what you saw. I wanna see through your eyes.

Jess Pieklo: But not in a creepy way.

Imani Gandy: I don't wanna take your eyeballs and put them in my head. That's gross. I just wanna have like a sort of astral projection kind of situation going on. If you would like to talk to us about how the Supreme Court is bullshit, about how they're all corrupt and they're all dirty motherfuckers, you can find me on Twitter @AngryBlackLady. You can find Jess on Twitter @Hegemommy. H-E-G-E-M-O-M-M-Y. You should follow Rewire News Group on Twitter, on Instagram, and subscribe to our YouTube channel because that's where you're gonna get all the notifications when we go live. And if you don't wanna see our faces, I don't know why you wouldn't, but hey, I don't live your life, you can just listen to the podcast the way you always do, wherever you get your local Farm-To-Table podcasts.

Jess Pieklo: I love us as a Farm-To-Table podcast.

Imani Gandy: We're a Farm-To-Table. We're a gluten-free GMO. That whole nine.

Jess Pieklo: I'm not gluten-free, I'm Italian.

Imani Gandy: Fair enough. But what are we gonna do, Jess?

Jess Pieklo: We will see you on the tubes, folks.

Imani Gandy: We will. We will see you on the tubes.