

***Joined by Legal Community and Good Government Groups***

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28), Ranking Member of the House Committee on Rules, was joined today by Rep. Earl Blumenauer (OR-03), Rep. Eleanor Holmes-Norton (D-DC), good government groups and the legal community to request the Supreme Court adopt the Judicial Code of Conduct. Slaughter, along with 31 Members of Congress, today sent a letter to Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts [responding to his Year-End Report on the State of the Judiciary, and requesting that the court voluntarily adopt the Judicial Code of Conduct](#)

. Currently the code of conduct applies to all US judges except for the 9 members of the Supreme Court.

Today Slaughter said, "For me, this fight is a continuation of my work on the STOCK Act. I am serious when I say that no matter your position of power in Washington, you should be held to the same standards of conduct and behavior as every other American citizen."

As detailed in the letter sent today, in just the last three years, Supreme Court Justices have been engaged in ethically dubious conduct at least 7 times- conduct that is explicitly forbidden among all other federal justices. Yet, because the Supreme Court does not adhere to the Code of Conduct for United States Judges, they have granted themselves immunity from the standards of behavior that apply to every other justice in the land. [To view the full letter from 31 Members of Congress to Chief Justice Roberts, click here.](#)

"The Supreme Court's greatest assets are its integrity and the public trust," said Rep. Blumenauer. "Yet the Court continues to operate without a binding code of ethics. It is troubling that the highest court in the land does not follow the same standards as the other federal courts, and it is long past time to address this shortcoming."

Today's press conference was the latest step in a growing call for a reformed code of conduct for the Supreme Court. Recently [212 law professors from around the country sent a letter to the 9 Supreme Court justices](#) requesting code of conduct.

View the professors' letter here.

William Yeomans, Fellow in Law and Government at American University's Washington College of Law, said today, "Since the Code of Hammurabi, the rule of law has been grounded in the belief that a judge should be accountable for upholding the public trust. The lack of a code of conduct on the Supreme Court is gaping exception to this standard. I, along with 212 of my peers, believe a code of conduct is vital for the Supreme Court to continue their valuable work with full confidence and support of the public."

Good government groups have joined the legal community in calling for code of conduct.

Nan Aron, President of Alliance for Justice, said, "With so much at stake at the Supreme Court this year, the justices can no longer avoid the need to make an unequivocal, final, and formal commitment to the highest possible ethical standards. With the Court's reputation at risk, one important step the Court can take to restore public confidence is to voluntarily and explicitly bind itself to the Code of Conduct."

Bob Edgar, CEO of Common Cause today said, "Sadly, the justices' answer to every suggestion that they adopt the Code of Conduct is a list of reasons why they can't. In fact, all the 'problems' the Court sees in applying the Code to its work can be overcome easily. It's time for our highest court to meet the highest standards."

In addition to today's press conference, CREDO Action today delivered 80,000 signatures to Chief Justice Roberts also calling for the court to adopt a code of conduct. Becky Bond, Political Director of CREDO Action said today "Justice Roberts is now hearing from thousands of Americans that we want our Supreme Court justices to adhere to the same set of ethical guidelines as every other federal judge in our country — and that no Supreme Court justice is above the law. The Supreme Court led by Chief Justice John Roberts will be law of the land for a generation -- and if ethics guidelines are not adopted the legacy of the Roberts court will be one of corruption not jurisprudence."

[To view the entire letter from 31 Members of Congress to Chief Justice Roberts, click here .](#)

[To learn more about Rep. Slaughter's previous work on this issue, click here .](#)