

## Wisconsin Supreme Court 2008:

# AN ACTIVIST MAJORITY IN THE BALANCE

ISSUES & BACKGROUND	JUSTICE LOUIS BUTLER	JUDGE MICHAEL GABLEMAN
<b>CURRENT POSITION</b>	Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice, appointed by Governor Jim Doyle in 2004. <i>(Lost statewide election to High Court in 2000 when he faced then-Justice Diane Sykes.)</i>	Burnett County Circuit Court Judge, appointed by Governor Scott McCallum in 2002. Elected to the bench in 2003.
<b>PROSECUTORIAL EXPERIENCE</b>	None	Appointed Ashland County District Attorney in 1999 by Governor Tommy G. Thompson, and won election to that post. Served as prosecutor in Marathon and Langlade Counties. Served as Clerk in a U.S. Attorney's Office, where he prepared federal criminal cases for prosecution.
<b>CRIMINAL DEFENSE EXPERIENCE</b>	Served as Assistant State Public Defender from 1979 to 1992 in Milwaukee County.	None
<b>OTHER EXPERIENCE</b>	Appointed Milwaukee County Municipal Court Judge in 1992. Won re-election to that post three times. Elected Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge in 2002. A permanent member of the faculty of the National Judicial College in Reno. Serves as a member of the bench in the Southwestern Law School Moot Court Competition in Los Angeles. Adjunct assistant professor of law at Marquette Law School.	Adjunct professor of law at Hamline University School of Law, 2003-2005. Served as an Administrative Law Judge, Deputy Corporation Counsel, and private practice attorney. Served on the Wisconsin Supreme Court's State Court/Tribal Court Relations Committee. Past member of the Wisconsin Judicial Council.
<b>PHILOSOPHY</b>	Judicial Activist. Cast tie-breaking votes on 4-3 Court rulings expanding liability for businesses, expanding criminal rights beyond U.S. Supreme Court rulings, and allowing expanded tribal gambling in Wisconsin.	Traditionalist. Opposes judicial activism and pledges to defer to the Legislature on matters of public policy.
<b>BUSINESS ISSUES</b>	Approved overturning medical malpractice caps, expanded liability for manufacturers, and easing standards to win punitive damage claims.	"I will not legislate from the bench ... business owners deserve and expect decisions from the court that are fair and consistent." 10/4/07
<b>SUPPORTERS</b>	Majority of circuit court judges, 18 district attorneys, Milwaukee police and fire unions, Wisconsin state police and fire unions, the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO, and other unions.	51 of the state's 72 sheriffs, 36 district attorneys, 17 assistant district attorneys, 19 police chiefs, and nine judges.
<b>EDUCATION</b>	B.A., Lawrence University, 1973. Government. J.D., UW-Madison School of Law, 1977.	B.A., Ripon College, 1988. Education and History. J.D., Hamline University School of Law, 1993. Dean's List Honors.

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