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Catherine Crier's New Book Distorts Battle Over Judicial Activism

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Washington, DC – Court TV's Catherine Crier has been making the talk show rounds in recent days to discuss her new book, "Contempt: How The Right Is Wronging American Justice."

In reading excerpts from Chapter One of her book, I was stunned by her paranoid view of Conservative Christians and her obvious contempt for people of faith who are genuinely concerned about federal judges who legislate from the bench.

Crier repeatedly refers to Christians as "ultraconservative," "right-wing," "fundamentalists," "radical," and claims they're hell-bent on converting our nation into a dictatorial theocratic state much like nations suffering under Islamic Sharia law. Her intemperate book sounds like it was written by Ted Kennedy or Ralph Neas of People for the American Way, not a thoughtful former judge.

Crier wrongly claims that Christians want "Born-again Christianity" to supplant the Constitution and notes, "This is no exaggeration..." Well, it is.

She's absolutely wrong in her analysis and her conspiratorial view of Conservative Christians is offensive to millions of Americans who are deeply concerned about the direction our federal courts have taken in recent decades—and the role of judges in overthrowing the will of the people by judicial edict.

I've been involved in political activism for more than 30 years and have spoken with thousands of pastors and Christian leaders throughout the United States. I don't know of one person who wants "Born-

again Christianity" to supplant the Constitution or wants to establish a theocratic dictatorship in our nation. She has obviously read materials from fanatical fringe groups who have no credibility and no power. She has done very poor research and her conclusions are not based upon facts.

Conservative Christians simply want federal judges to understand their proper place in our Republican form of government. They are not legislators nor are they above the executive branch of government. They are to interpret, not create laws. What Conservative Christians want is for federal judges to exercise judicial restraint and not act as tyrants unrestrained by the Constitution. Judge Robert Bork has rightly called renegade federal judges, "Our Judicial Oligarchy," who think it is their right to dictate how we shall live.

Conservative Christians believe that the Constitution is a brilliant document that guarantees freedom of religion, speech, and association. And, they're deeply troubled that federal judges have imposed their own liberal agenda upon the American people by reinterpreting the Constitution or redefining words to mean whatever they wish them to mean. This is judicial tyranny.

Catherine Crier claims Conservative Christians want to "overthrow our judicial system" and our democratic system of government. This extremist position is unequivocally wrong. We want to restore our judicial system to its proper place in our system. Mark Levin, author of "Men in Black: How The Supreme Court Is Destroying America," has correctly observed: "Judicial activists are nothing short of radicals in robes—contemptuous of the rule of law, subverting the Constitution at will, and using their public trust to impose their policy preferences on society. In fact, no radical political movement has been more effective in undermining our system of government than the judiciary." It is renegade federal judges who threaten our democratic system, not Conservative Christians.

Ms. Crier would do well to read Mark Levin's book to gain a clear understanding of why Conservative Christians are so concerned about renegade federal courts—including the Supreme Court—and why we are working to support the confirmation of Constitutionalist to the federal bench.

Our desire is to defend the Constitution and restore the judicial system—not overthrow it or create a theocratic dictatorship.