

LIBERAL CONCERN



Is She Too Middle-of-the-Road?

Republicans as effusive as Democrats in her praise.

The New York Times

Some liberals seem to feel that Kagan isn't the lefty firebrand they seek to fight the conservative side of the bench. "I want a Brennan or a Marshall, someone clearly on the liberal side," said Michael Ratner, president of the Center for Constitutional Rights. Kagan's scant record shows her to be liberal in areas such as gay rights, but conservative in civil liberties. "There were important issues on which Elena took centrist or even center-right positions, but it was never clear whether she was pressing her own views or merely carrying water for her boss," said Christopher Edley, Jr, who worked with Kagan at the White House. "She's cultivated good relations with conservatives," said Curt Levey, executive director of the Committee for Justice, a conservative legal group. But her former boss at the White House, Bruce Reed, said her politics were almost irrelevant. "She doesn't approach these things through an ideological lens," he said. "She's not a particularly political person."

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