

# [***Ginni Thomas-Led Conservative Group Reportedly Raised $600,000 But We Don t Know Who From***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:67WJ-6HC1-DXVP-518R-00000-00&context=1516831)

Forbes.com

March 28, 2023 Tuesday

Copyright 2023 Forbes LLC All Rights Reserved

**Length:** 852 words

**Byline:** Alison Durkee, Forbes Staff

**Highlight:** The anonymous donations are the latest in a series of potential ethics concerns surrounding Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas wife.

**Body**

**Topline**

A conservative activist group led by Ginni Thomas, wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, received nearly $600,000 from anonymous donors, the**Washington Post**reports, the latest in a series of controversies Thomas has faced for her work as a right-wing activist that raise the specter of possible ethical conflicts with her husband s work.

<figure>

<figcaption>

Ginni Thomas, the wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, arrives for an interview with the House panel investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection, in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 29, 2022.

Copyright 2022 The Associated Press. All rights reserved

</figcaption></figure>

**Key Facts**

Crowdsourcers for Culture and Liberty, which was formed in 2019 and is described in tax filings as an informal incubator for ideas across a network of conservative leaders, cultural entrepreneurs, and cultural influences, received $596,000 between 2019 and the end of 2021, the**Post**reports.

The payments were funneled through the right-wing think tank Capital Research Center (CRC) as a fiscal sponsorship, according to the**Post**, which means Crowdsourcers did not have to disclose donors behind the payment, or information about the group s activities and spending that would have been required if it registered as a nonprofit.

Financial documents cited by the**Post**do not say how Crowdsourcers spent the $596,000 or if Thomas received any payment, and while CRC s fiscal sponsorship said it provided fiduciary oversight, financial management and other administrative services to help build the capacity of Crowdsourcers, former CRC chairman Michael Franc told the**Post**it had no role in raising the money that was sent to Crowdsourcers.

CRC, a self-described investigative think tank that uncovers left-wing influence campaigns, filed its only amicus brief before the Supreme Court the same year as its funding arrangement with Crowdsourcers began, the**Post**reports, in a lawsuit over fuel regulations in Oregon that the court ultimately declined to take up.

That could present an ethical issue and be a reason for Clarence Thomas to have recused himself if Thomas was paid for her work with Crowdsourcers, New York University legal ethics expert Stephen Gillers told the**Post**.

Thomas attorney Mark Paoletta told the**Post** there is no plausible conflict of interest issue with respect to Justice Thomas regarding Thomas Crowdsourcers work, and said Thomas complied with all reporting and disclosure requirements.

**Chief Critic**

Thomas was proud of the work she did with Crowdsourcers, which brought together conservative leaders to discuss amplifying conservative values with respect to the battle over culture, Paoletta said in a statement to the**Post**. Thomas has previously denied any impropriety involving her work and her husband s work at the Supreme Court, telling House investigators she can guarantee that my husband has never spoken to me about pending cases in the court and she generally [doesn t] discuss with him my day-to-day work in ***politics***.

**Surprising Fact**

Thomas told supporters that Crowdsourcers partners in the early days of its operations included right-wing attorney Cleta Mitchell, who told the**Post**she did not know anything about Crowdsourcers and that nothing ever came of the political action committee. Other major right-wing figures that Thomas said were involved with the group, including Project Veritas founder James O Keefe and Turning Point USA president Charlie Kirk, did not respond to requests for comment. According to the**Post**, Crowdsourcers communications were done through a private Google group, and emails contained warnings not to reveal members identities.

**Key Background**

Thomas has come under significantscrutinyin recent months for her right-wing activism and its potential ramifications on her husband s work. A series of reports have detailed Thomas efforts to help overturn the2020 election, including communications with then-White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows and puttingpressureon battleground state lawmakers to challenge the election results, which came as her husband consideredcaseson the issue. The**Post**notes concerns about Thomas political activism date back much further, however, as Thomas initially formed a right-wing nonprofit in 2010 that she later stepped away from amid concerns about its funding. Politicoreporteda $500,000 donation to the nonprofit had come from Texas real estate magnate Harlan Crow, who also has ties to Clarence Thomas. Ginni Thomas then formed Liberty Consulting, a for-profit conservative activist firm that is not subject to the same reporting requirements as nonprofits.

**Further Reading**

Activist group led by Ginni Thomas received nearly $600,000 in anonymous donations(Washington Post)

Ginni Thomas Wife Of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas Went To The Jan. 6 Rally, She Says(Forbes)

Ginni Thomas Won t Testify to Jan. 6 Committee, Lawyer Says Here s What We Know About Her Efforts To Overturn The Election(Forbes)

Is Ginni Thomas a Threat to the Supreme Court?(New Yorker)

Chief Justice Roberts Wife Is Latest Supreme Court Spouse To Spark Ethics Concerns(Forbes)

**Load-Date:** March 29, 2023

**End of Document**