

CBS Mornings

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23 seconds

NORAH O'DONNELL: This morning, one of the Supreme Court's longest-serving justices, Samuel Alito, is speaking out on some of the landmark opinions he has written, including the one that overturned *Roe vs. Wade*. Alito's new book *So Ordered: An Originalist's View of the Constitution, the Court and Our Country*, well, it's out tomorrow. Our Jan Crawford went inside Alito's chambers in the Supreme Court and traveled to his hometown.

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8:31:10 a.m.

4 minutes and 21 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Behind the Bench with Justice Samuel Alito]

JAN CRAWFORD: Those qualities formed on that field and here in his high school, where his portrait is on the wall, have helped make Alito one of the Supreme Court's most influential justices. Author of the 2022 opinion that overturned *Roe vs. Wade* and sent the issue of abortion back to the states.

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE SAMUEL ALITO: People on both sides feel very, very strongly about abortion.

CRAWFORD [TO ALITO]: Do you regret writing it?

ALITO: No, not at all.

CRAWFORD: But this institution was tested like never before. [on *CBS Mornings*, 04/03/22]: Good morning, Tony. An unprecedented leak from the Supreme Court. [Back to voice-over] With a leak of a draft of Alito's pivotal abortion decision.

ALITO: The leak has cast a pall over the court to a degree, because we —

CRAWFORD [TO ALITO]: A pall?

ALITO: A pall.

CRAWFORD [TO ALITO]: You can feel it?

ALITO: — I think so because we don't know who was responsible.

CRAWFORD [TO ALITO]: What does it do, then, to the Court and the relationships on the

Court? Does it add tension?

ALITO: It's something that I don't think we can get out of our minds.

CRAWFORD: President Trump has praised Alito as a legend, but been unsparing in his criticism of some of the conservative justices he nominated for the high court when they ruled against him. Alito said he is troubled by that kind of criticism and praise.

ALITO: We are not part of any political movement, and we are not attempting to further any political agenda. We are trying to interpret the Constitution as best we can and apply it in cases that come before us.

CRAWFORD [TO ALITO]: When you have political leaders on both sides talking about the Supreme Court as the justices are nothing more than political actors trying to deliver victory to their team, how damaging is that to the court?

ALITO: I think it's damaging. I think it can be quite damaging. There's been a great change in what presidents have said about the Court when they are unhappy about our decisions.

CRAWFORD [TO ALITO]: Did Trump change that?

ALITO: It's been bipartisan.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP [02/20/26]: I'm ashamed of certain members of the Court. Absolutely ashamed.

ALITO: I mean, the language we're hearing from President Trump is different, certainly with social media.

ALITO: He has his own way of saying things. I mean, I want to be even-handed on this. The criticism of the court by President Biden and justices by President Biden and his administration was very harsh, and President Trump has been very harsh.

CRAWFORD [TO ALITO]: Would you decide these cases the same way if it weren't Donald Trump in the White House?

ALITO: I absolutely sincerely believe that I would. I'm not trying to decide cases to help President Trump.

CRAWFORD: Now 76, Alito said he considered retirement earlier this year, but decided against it.

ALITO: Something I think that somebody at my age has to think about every term, but I thought that I could still make a valuable contribution, which is why I became a justice and a judge in the first place.

CRAWFORD [TO ALITO]: Positions that you took years ago are now the law today. Did that factor into your decision on retirement, your influence?

ALITO: It's hard to give up the opportunity to do something that will — I think will be good for the Constitution and good for the country as long as I'm able to do it.

CRAWFORD: For *CBS Mornings*, I'm Jan Crawford in Washington.

O'DONNELL: You know, this is groundbreaking because the overturning of *Roe vs. Wade* was the overturning of essentially 50 years —

BURLESON: Mmhmm.

O'DONNELL: — of federal law and, while you can debate the constitutionality and how it was decided, what's interesting is the effect it has had in many states where abortion access is restricted.

BURLESON: Mmhmm.

O'DONNELL: Less people are applying to ob/gyn residencies —

BURLESON: Mmhmm.

O'DONNELL: — because they're worried about being penalized, that results in less doctors available for maternal care. The March of Dimes just came out — 2026, in their report said 35 percent of U.S. counties are maternity care deserts.

BURLESON: Mmmm.

O'DONNELL: Think about that.

VLADIMIR DUTHIERS: Yeah.

O'DONNELL: If you are a pregnant woman, it is harder to go and get maternity care, and this has been one of the real term effects.

BURLESON: Yep.

O'DONNELL: And so, legislators need to address that issue. We need more people caring for pregnant women.

DUTHIERS: Especially if you are poor.

O'DONNELL: Yes.

BURLESON: Right about that, Norah.

O'DONNELL: And Justice Alito's book *So Ordered* is out tomorrow.