

Notes on Corporate timeline

Jan Edwards, Bill Meyers & Others put together for

Point Arena CA effort in 2000 to pass first corporate personhood statement

Jan & Molly Morgan tour country for WILPF

Wrote article

Significant points

Elites used courts to maintain elite rule

after the spread of democracy

People get rights by passing amendments

Courts get rights by judicial decree

Timeline contains:

42 SCOTUS cases

17 Amendments

29 Events

9 Sayings & Facts

Top: Corporations gain or lose rights & powers

Bottom: humans gain rights & powers

“substantive due process: In United States constitutional law, substantive due process is a principle which allows federal courts to protect certain rights deemed fundamental from government interference under the authority of the due process clauses of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution, which prohibit the federal and state governments, respectively, from depriving any person of "life, liberty, or property, without due process of law."^{[1][2]} That is, substantive due process demarcates the line between acts by persons that courts hold are subject to government regulation or legislation and those acts that courts place beyond the reach of governmental interference

1819 Dartmouth College v Woodward: Changing status of corporations

1886 Santa Clara introduces Corporate Personhood into the Supreme Court thinking

1889 Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad v. Beckwith

Confirms that Corporations have due process and equal protection

1893 Nobel v. Union River Logging gives Corporations Bill of Rights protection

1905 Lochner v. New York makes regulations a taking

1919 Dodge v. Ford Motor Co makes shareholder benefits primary corporate goal

1922 Pennsylvania Coal Co. v Mahon: Creating laws that protect homeowners from Coal mines that are causing their houses to sink is a taking and prohibited under the 5th Amendment

1947 Taft-Hartley Act

Corporations are granted “free speech”

1976 Buckley v. Valeo

The Supreme Court rules that political money is equivalent to speech

1977 First National Bank of Boston v. Bellotti

Free speech is used to overturn state restrictions on corporate spending on political referenda.

Dissent by Justices White, Brennan, Marshall: "...the special status of corporations has placed them in a position to control vast amounts of economic power which may, if not regulated, dominate not only our economy but the very heart of our democracy, the electoral process... The state need not allow its own creation to consume it."

Rehnquist also dissented: "The blessings of perpetual life and limited liability...so beneficial in the economic sphere, pose special dangers in the political sphere."

2010 Citizens United

2011 Arizona Free Enterprise Club's Freedom Club PAC v. Bennett and McComish v. Bennett, the Supreme Court deemed unconstitutional the matching-funds provision of the Arizona law

2014 McCutcheon v FEC; the government cannot prevent citizens from giving campaign contributions to as many different candidates and political parties as they want. Previously, they were capped under the "aggregate limit" rule.