

Monday, August 27, 2007

Attorney General Gonzales resigns. Who will replace him?

Â Bill of Rights.Â (From the public domain.)Â Attorney General Alberto Gonzales resigned this past Friday, butÂ the official announcement was delayed until later today, Monday. Talk about too little too late. Â Gonzales's resignation presents an opportunity for Bush to be persuaded to appoint a replacement who will act more independently from the president than did Gonzales (who did not appear to act very independently at all), will be more forthcoming to the public, and will do more to protect true justice. My complaints about Mr. Gonzales are many.Â Whom would you recommend for the job, both your ideal candidate, and a candidate that might realistically be accepted by Bush? Don't just tell me; please tell Bush. Â U.S. News & World Report (thanks TalkLeft for the link) said on August 24: "The buzz among top Bushies is that beleaguered Attorney General Alberto Gonzales finally plans to depart and will be replaced by Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff." I hope the field of candidates extends beyond Chertoff, and to better people than someone like former Attorney General Richard "Thornburgh Memo" Thornburgh. Even though Chertoff has been exposed to enlightened views of the Constitution, having been a law clerk to the late Supreme Court Justice William Brennan, for two and one-half years he has been drenched in homeland security work, which would not appear to be about hugging the Constitution other than to try to squeeze the breath out of it. It might be better to have a devil we have known as attorney general (were that Thornburgh), rather than a devil from the Homeland Security Department's helm. Â Until Bush names a Gonzales replacement, whose nomination will need Senate confirmation, it appears that the acting attorney general will be Acting Deputy Attorney General Craig S. Morford.Â Â Thanks to my brother First Amendment Lawyers Association member Marc Randazza for sending a listserv message on this news item. Here is Marc's strongly-worded blog entry on the Gonzales news. Â Among theÂ legions of blogsÂ covering this news item are: TalkLeft (here and here), and Michelle Malkin's rightwing blogÂ (I vehemently disagree with Malkin's views, but here she expresses what plenty of far rightwingers probably are thinking about Gonzales and his potential replacement). Jon Katz.Â

Posted by Jon Katz in Constitutional Law at 08:10