

To the Editor:

Re “Under Scrutiny, Justices Adopt an Ethics Code” (Nov. 14):

In response to a public outcry, the Supreme Court has published a code of ethics. Unfortunately, this code presumably only looks forward rather than backward, and it doesn't matter anyway, since there is no provision for investigation, and no prescription for penalties. No wonder Justices Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas were willing to sign on.



Several talking heads on the various news channels have given credit to the court for at least a good first step. The reality, however, is that there will not be any further steps, at least while Justices Alito and Thomas remain on the bench.

It's as if the members of the court were saying to America: You forced us to adopt a code of ethics; here it is. We all know it's worthless, but now just leave us alone.

Lawrence Levy, Los Angeles

For reasons beyond my understanding, this group of nine people who, in the course of their professions, parse and determine the exact intention of words, opted not to require adherence to their new ethics code, but rather to suggest that they should adhere to it.

I know I should pay my taxes. But if no one is going to check on whether I do or not, I might just decide, when I really, really need a vacation, that I'll skip my taxes that year and use those funds instead to charter a private jet.

Shameful. Maybe they thought nobody would notice.

Cynthia Mowery, University Park, Md.

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