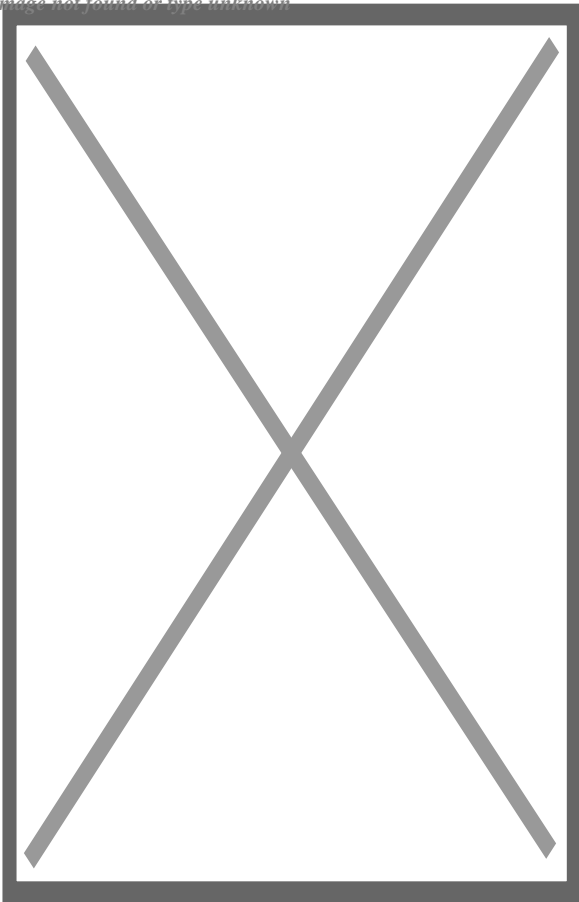


U.S. lawmakers call for criminal probe of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas

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Washington, July 10 (RHC)-- In the United States, two top Democratic senators have called on the Justice Department to open a criminal probe into U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas on potential violations of ethics, false statements and tax laws.

Senators Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island and Ron Wyden of Oregon are urging U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland to appoint a special counsel to investigate Thomas's failure to disclose lavish gifts, luxury travel and other perks gifted to Thomas by wealthy friends, including billionaire conservative megadonor Harlan Crow. "No government official should be above the law," the senators said in a

statement.

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