

GOP HOME-STATE SENATOR STATEMENTS FOR OBAMA JUDICIAL NOMINEES (2011-12)

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UPDATED THROUGH MAY 11, 2012

-Glenn Sugameli, Staff Attorney, [Judging the Environment](#), Defenders of Wildlife

OK Senators Support 10th Circuit & District Court Nominees

(Republican - Oklahoma) 05/09/12

Sens. "Coburn and Inhofe pledged support for Bacharach and Dowdell at the hearing on Wednesday."

Sens. Pryor, Boozman Applaud Confirmation of Kris Baker for U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas

(Republican - Arkansas) 05/07/12

"I have gotten to know Kris Baker during her confirmation process and have seen that she has the right mix of character, experience and legal knowledge to serve the people of Arkansas well. I believe she will do an excellent job in this role and that we will all be proud of her future service on the bench," said Boozman.

Sen. Cornyn, Hutchison Applaud Senate Confirmation of Gregg Costa and David Guaderrama as Federal Judges

(Republican - Texas) 04/26/12

"I'm thrilled Mr. Costa and Mr. Guaderrama, both of whom have impeccable credentials and a passionate commitment to upholding the law, were confirmed today," said Sen. Cornyn. "It was my honor to join Sen. Hutchison in recommending them, and I wish them the very best as they take on the important work the President and United States Senate have appointed them to do." "I am pleased that the Senate voted overwhelmingly to confirm Gregg J. Costa and David C. Guaderrama to fill the judicial vacancies for the Southern District of Texas in Galveston and the Western District of Texas in El Paso," said Sen. Hutchison. ... I am confident that these two judges will serve well on the federal bench." Senators Cornyn and Hutchison (R-TX) recommended them to President Obama in July 2011.

Sen. Hatch on Judiciary Committee Approval of Robert Shelby to U.S. District Court for Utah

(Republican - Utah) 04/26/12

"Mr. Chairman, I appreciate your including on the agenda today Robert Shelby's nomination to the U.S. District Court for the District of Utah. Our state is growing fast and our federal judges work hard. Filling this final vacancy is important and I appreciate you helping to move it forward.... I strongly support Bob Shelby's nomination and commend him to my Committee colleagues. I hope this Committee and the full Senate will approve his nomination as soon as possible."

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE APPROVES NOMINATION OF WILLIAM KAYATTA TO SERVE ON U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIRST CIRCUIT: Senator Collins calls Kayatta "an attorney of exceptional intelligence, extensive experience, and demonstrated integrity"

(Republican - Maine) 04/19/12

"Bill is an attorney of exceptional intelligence, extensive experience, and demonstrated integrity, who is very highly respected in the Maine legal community," said Senator Collins. "Bill's impressive background makes him eminently qualified for a seat on the First Circuit. His thirty plus years of real world litigation experience would bring a much-needed perspective to the court. "Maine has a long proud history of supplying superb jurists to the federal bench. I know that, if confirmed, Mr. Kayatta will continue in that tradition. I urge the full Senate to approve his nomination as soon as possible," Senator Collins continued.

Sen. Snowe Press Release about Judiciary Committee approval of William Kayatta Nomination to First Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals

(Republican - Maine) 04/19/12

Snowe urged the Senate to give his nomination "prompt consideration." "This is a case of the president selecting a superbly qualified nominee, who can and should attract strong, bipartisan support in the Senate," she said in a press release. "A tremendous steward of the common good, especially the cause of access to justice for all, Bill could not be more qualified to be a circuit court judge and I reiterate my strong support of his nomination."

Sen. Heller Congratulates Miranda Du

(Republican - Nevada) 03/28/12

"Like many states, Nevada is facing a judicial crisis, and we need judges who will uphold the laws of the land in their courtroom. Miranda Du is one of these judges. I believe she will make an outstanding District Court judge in the great State of Nevada and I am pleased the Senate has confirmed her. Miranda has maintained a dedication to the preservation of justice and integrity throughout her career. She is highly respected and I have no doubt that she will serve the Silver State proudly. I want to congratulate Miranda on her confirmation and wish her all the best," said Senator Dean Heller.

Sen. Lee at Hearing on Utah lawyer Robert Shelby's judicial nomination

(Republican - Utah) 03/28/12

Lee introduced Shelby at a Judiciary Committee hearing Wednesday as a "preeminently qualified" nominee, and the senator said he fully supports the Utah lawyer and expects Leahy to call for a vote soon. Lee, however, wouldn't say Wednesday how he would vote on Shelby's confirmation. Lee has voted against every executive and judicial nominee so far this year. "I

make a practice of not forecasting which way I'm going to vote, so I'm not going to break from that today," Lee said after the hearing.

Sen. McCain predicts "huge" U.S. campaign finance scandals

(Republican - Arizona) 03/27/12

McCain, speaking at a Reuters forum on money in politics, gave a blistering critique of U.S. Supreme Court justices over a 2010 ruling that lifted limits on political fundraising and spending by corporations, unions and other non-campaign groups by equating their rights to those of individual citizens. "What the Supreme Court did is a combination of arrogance, naivete and stupidity the likes of which I have never seen," said McCain, one of the authors of a now partially overturned law that restricted political spending by corporations and other outside groups. "I promise you, there will be huge scandals," McCain said, "because there's too much money washing around, too much of it we don't know who's behind it and too much corruption associated with that kind of money. There will be major scandals."

Sen. Hatch Votes to Confirm Judge David Nuffer for U.S. District Court for the District of Utah

(Republican - Utah) 03/22/12

"I know Judge Nuffer well, and I know that he has the experience, temperament, and integrity to be a great federal judge. He's been involved in virtually all aspects of the Utah legal community and is widely respected by lawyers and judges throughout our state. I am confident that he will continue the tradition of distinguished federal judges serving the people of Utah."

Sen. Grassley: Nuffer, Contreras, Abrams Judicial Nominations Floor Statement

(Republican - Iowa) 03/22/12

Sen. Lee Pleased by Confirmation of Judge Nuffer; Senator's "NO" Vote Reflects Principled Objection to Unconstitutional Appointments

(Republican - Utah) 03/22/12

"Today I continued in taking this principled stance by voting "no" on the confirmation of Magistrate Judge David Nuffer to be a District Judge for the District of Utah. I did so despite my unequivocal support for Judge Nuffer and my belief that he will be an excellent federal district court judge."

Sen. Scott Brown on Magistrate Judge Timothy S. Hillman's District Court Nomination

(Republican - Massachusetts) 03/16/12

Sen. Scott Brown, R-Mass., who has strongly backed the nomination, added: "I'm glad that a bipartisan agreement has been reached to vote on judicial nominees. ... I will continue working across the aisle to build bipartisan support for Judge Hillman's nomination."

Sen. Alexander Praises Nomination of Judge John Thomas Fowlkes, Jr., of Memphis, to Be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee

(Republican - Tennessee) 03/15/12

"I would recommend that the committee approve him and move him on to the Senate for full consideration."

Sen. Corker Introduces Shelby County Judge John Fowlkes at Senate Nomination Hearing

(Republican - Tennessee) 03/14/12

“When the White House began looking for someone in the Memphis area to become a federal judge, the first name that came out from every civic and respected political leader was Judge Fowlkes. I don’t believe that I’ve come across someone who has come before this committee and has been more highly recommended by people that I respect,” Corker said in his introduction. “I went to Shelby County to meet with Judge Fowlkes so these proceedings could move on quickly, and I am very, very highly impressed with him and highly recommend him to this committee.”

Sen. Snowe Testifies on U.S. First Circuit Court of Appeals Nomination (William Kavatta, Jr.)

(Republican - Maine) 03/14/12

“This is a case of the President selecting a superbly-qualified nominee, who can and should attract strong, bipartisan support in the Judiciary Committee. A tremendous steward of the common good, especially the cause of access to justice for all, Bill could not be more qualified to be a Circuit Court Judge and I strongly support his nomination.”

Sen. Scott Brown Statement on Judiciary Committee Vote for Timothy Hillman District Court Nomination

(Republican - Massachusetts) 03/08/12

Sen. Scott Brown, R-MA., added to the praise for Magistrate Judge Hillman and pledged to press for approval of the nomination by the full Senate. “I am thrilled that Judge Tim Hillman was voted out of the Judiciary Committee by a strong bipartisan vote,” Mr. Brown said. “Tim has been an asset to Massachusetts and will continue to serve with distinction as a federal district court judge. I will work tirelessly on a bipartisan basis to ensure Tim's confirmation by the full Senate.”

Sen. Lindsey Graham Confident Senate will Confirm SC nominee Mary Geiger Lewis as U.S. district judge

(Republican - South Carolina) 03/08/12

Sen. Graham "didn't speak at the committee hearing and said afterward only that he's confident the Senate will confirm Lewis."

Sen. Coburn Statement at Judiciary Committee Meeting on Judicial Nominations

(Republican - Oklahoma) 03/01/12

Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.), a conservative, complained that the Judiciary Committee needs to operate as it did before the disputes over Bush and Obama nominees became such high-intensity partisan fights. “I think the very issue ... is what makes Americans sick of what we’re doing,” Coburn said. “It’s a tit for tat. We’ve got to get beyond that, the problems are too great for our country. What I do know is that presidents are entitled to their nominees.”

Sen. Inhofe: Hopeful John Dowdell District Court Nomination Will Move Swiftly Through the Senate

(Republican - Oklahoma) 03/01/12

A spokesman for Republican U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe said the senator “is supportive of Mr.

Dowdell's nomination, and he is hopeful that his confirmation process will move swiftly through the Senate.”

Sen. Kyl Before & After Committee Vote for Andrew Hurwitz Nomination

(Republican - Arizona) 03/01/12

Arizona Sen. Jon Kyl, who supported the nomination, said Thursday that the committee’s “overwhelming vote . . . will help to ensure that he (Hurwitz) will come up on the Senate floor in a timely fashion.” Kyl said he wholeheartedly supports Hurwitz’s nomination, pointing out his qualifications, temperament and intelligence, and noting that the judge has the support of Arizonans. “If I believed that Justice Hurwitz had very firm anti-life views and if I believed that he could not differentiate between his own personal views and his responsibilities as a judge and would allow his own personal predilections to seep into his judicial decision-making, then I would not support it,” Kyl said. “But I don’t believe he’d do those two things.” Kyl said fellow Arizona Sen. John McCain, who is not on the Judiciary Committee, also wholeheartedly supports the Hurwitz nomination.

Sen. Rubio Supporting Robin Rosenbaum District Court Nomination

(Republican - Florida) 02/29/12

“Magistrate Judge Rosenbaum has served as a United States magistrate judge in Fort Lauderdale, in the Southern District of Florida, since her appointment on September 4, 2007. Since her appointment to the bench, she has garnered a solid reputation with attorneys in the community for her intellect and abiding sense of fairness.”

Sen. Kirk: Senate Judiciary Committee Approves Federal Judicial Nominees in Northern District

(Republican - Illinois) 02/16/12

A spokesperson for Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL) provided the following statement on today’s hearing: “Senator Kirk has worked closely with Senator Durbin to advance the nominations of John Tharp and John Lee for the U.S. District Court in the Northern District of Illinois and we thank him for maintaining that momentum for both nominees through Committee today and upcoming confirmation by the full Senate.”

Sen. Scott Brown "going to do everything in my power to ... get a vote on [nominee] right away"

(Republican - Massachusetts) 02/15/12

Mr. Brown echoed the support for Judge Hillman, saying: “He is somebody who is greatly respected in Massachusetts and especially in the Worcester area. His innovation, integrity and dedication to fairness are really to be commended.” Mr. Brown added that the process of selecting Judge Hillman was “clearly bipartisan,” indicating there should be no reason for a member of his party to hold up Judge Hillman’s nomination. “I’m going to do everything in my power to encourage my colleagues to make sure we get a vote on this right away, because Massachusetts needs a jurist like him right away to do the people’s business,” Mr. Brown said.

Sen. Rubio Floor Statement on Judge Adalberto Jordan & "critically important" need to fill 11th Circuit vacancies

(Republican - Florida) 02/13/12

"Let me say a couple of things about the Eleventh Circuit. It has two current vacancies ... It is so overwhelming that they routinely invite judges from other circuits to hear its cases. So it is critically important that we fill these vacancies, and that is hopefully what we will do today. ... I hope that as a body we will confirm him in an overwhelming and bipartisan fashion."

Sen. Grassley Floor Statement Supporting 11th Circuit Nomination of Judge Adalberto Jordan

(Republican - Iowa) 02/13/12

"The American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary has rated this nominee with a unanimous ``Well Qualified" rating. I concur in that rating and will support the nomination."

Sen. Hutchison spokesman on pending Texas judicial nominees

(Republican - Texas) 02/11/12

A Hutchison spokesman said "we have made it clear to the White House and Senate leadership that we are unequivocally supporting the confirmation of these two highly qualified individuals."

Sen. Cornyn spokeswoman on Texas judicial vacancies

(Republican - Texas) 02/11/12

"Sen. Cornyn has been steadfast in his efforts to fill Texas' vacancies on the federal bench, and he intends to work with Senate Democrats to see that these two pending nominees are confirmed," said Drew Brandewie, a spokesman for the senator.

Sen. Grassley Floor Statement

(Republican - Iowa) 02/09/12

"The Senate is considering the nomination of Cathy Ann Bencivengo to be U.S. district judge for the Southern District of California. I support this nomination"

Sens. Boozman & Pryor For Arkansas Judicial Nominee & v. 90 Day Merits Votes on All Nominees

(Democrat, Republican - Arkansas) 01/26/12

U.S. Sens. Mark Pryor, D-Ark., and John Boozman, R-Ark., voiced strong support today for Little Rock lawyer Kris Baker to serve as a federal judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas. In testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee, the two senators urged a speedy confirmation. ... "I believe Kris Baker will do an excellent job. I strongly support her confirmation," said Boozman. ... "She has four children all eight and under. They came to my office this morning and were like four little tornadoes," Pryor said. "If she can handle those kids she can handle any courtroom." ... Pryor and Boozman were uncertain when the Senate would take up Baker's confirmation but were encouraged that it would not languish given how quickly the committee had scheduled her hearing. "I'll do everything I can to shepherd it through," Pryor said. ... Obama called on the Senate to pass "a simple rule" for all judicial and public service nominations to receive an up-or-down vote within 90 days. Pryor and Boozman said today they would not support such a rule. Boozman said there are times when a senator is "within one's right" to filibuster a nomination but added that it should be rarely used for judicial nominations.

Sen. Boozman Supports Little Rock Nominee for Federal Bench

(Republican - Arkansas) 01/26/12

"Her extensive experience and her impressive background unanimously qualify her for the position of District Judge. ... I congratulate her on her nomination and strongly support her confirmation."

Sen. Kyl Supports AZ Justice Andrew Hurwitz for Ninth Circuit

(Republican - Arizona) 01/26/12

"Mr. Chairman, I would say that Mr. Hurwitz does not have a reputation as an activist judge. And, to my way of thinking has been quite successful at separating political views from the job at hand - namely, deciding cases." [Video] Kyl introduces Hurwitz at 21:30, questioning of Hurwitz from 39:00 to 54:15--

Sen. Collins Urging 1st Circuit Nominee Confirmation

(Republican - Maine) 01/24/12

Collins said Kayatta is "eminently qualified to serve on the 1st Circuit Court of Appeals" and called on Republicans and Democrats to support his nomination. She said that she hopes election-year politics won't get in the way of Kayatta's confirmation, and that she is trying to pave the way for Kayatta in the Senate. "I have already begun discussing Bill with my colleagues, and I am optimistic that his extraordinary qualifications will trump partisan gridlock," Collins said via email Monday evening.

Sen. Coburn spokeswoman on Tenth Circuit Nominee

(Republican - Oklahoma) 01/23/12

A spokeswoman for Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Muskogee, said Monday that Coburn wanted to review the full background report from the FBI and Judiciary Committee. But she said the senator believes Bacharach "has many excellent credentials and comes highly recommended from lawyers and judges in Oklahoma."

Sen. Inhofe on 10th Circuit Nomination of Robert Bacharach

(Republican - Oklahoma) 01/23/12

Republican Sen. Jim Inhofe, Oklahoma's senior senator, also expressed strong support for the nomination. "He is a great guy," Inhofe said, quipping that "it is kind of rare that the Obama White House and I agree on anything." "He (Bacharach) is a person that has done a good job."

Sen. Snowe Statement on Nomination of William Kayatta Jr. to Serve on U.S. First Circuit Court of Appeals

(Republican - Maine) 01/23/12

"I strongly believe that a Mainer should fill the seat held by Judge Kermit Lipez, and I am pleased to see that the President has announced the nomination of William Kayatta, Jr. today. Considered one of the smartest lawyers in the state of Maine, Bill has an excellent reputation and has remarkable experience during his 25-year tenure as a partner at the Pierce Atwood. He is an extremely well-regarded litigator, with a sterling reputation among his peers in our state. I look forward to strongly supporting his nomination, and urge the Senate give his nomination prompt consideration."

SENATOR COLLINS' STATEMENT ON NOMINATION OF WILLIAM KAYATTA TO FIRST CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS

(Republican - Maine) 01/23/12

"I am pleased that the President has nominated Bill Kayatta, an attorney of exceptional intelligence, extensive experience, and demonstrated integrity. Bill has earned the American Bar Association's highest rating, reflecting the ABA's assessment of his qualifications, experience, and temperament. "Bill is eminently qualified to serve on the First Circuit Court of Appeals. He deserves overwhelming bipartisan support, and I look forward to introducing him to my colleagues as soon as possible."

Sen. Johanns Applauds Confirmation of Justice Gerrard to U.S. District Court

(Republican - Nebraska) 01/23/12

en. Mike Johanns (R-Neb.) today applauded the Senate confirmation of Justice John Gerrard to the U.S. Court for the District of Nebraska. Gerrard's confirmation passed, 74-16. "I'm pleased my Senate colleagues recognized that Justice Gerrard is a highly disciplined judge who has distinguished himself throughout more than a decade of service on our state's high court," Johanns said. "I look forward to him serving our nation on the federal bench."

Sens. Casey and Toomey Praise New U.S. District Judge Cathy Bissoon

(Democrat, Republican - Pennsylvania) 01/20/12

"I congratulate Judge Bissoon on her installation to the post of United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania," said Senator Casey. "Judge Bissoon's experience and judgment will make her an asset to the Western District. In addition to her excellent credentials as a lawyer and federal magistrate judge, she brings a true American success story to the bench." "Judge Bissoon has served with distinction as a well-respected federal magistrate judge, and I am pleased to extend my congratulations on her installation today as a district judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania," Sen. Toomey said. "She has demonstrated a commitment to mentoring young lawyers and encouraging greater diversity in the legal profession, and she is well qualified to serve on the federal bench."

Sens. Casey and Toomey Praise New U.S. District Judge Mark R. Hornak

(Democrat, Republican - Pennsylvania) 01/20/12

"I congratulate Judge Hornak on his confirmation to the post of United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania," said Senator Casey. "Judge Hornak has demonstrated a resolute understanding of the purpose of his public service, and I am confident he will serve the Commonwealth with distinction. Mark is a longtime friend, a superb lawyer and a true son of Pittsburgh." "Judge Hornak has been a careful student of the law throughout his career and has demonstrated an intellectual curiosity and a commitment to integrity, which I know will serve him well on the federal bench," Sen. Toomey said. "I believe these character traits and his range of experience will enable him to effectively serve the people of Pennsylvania."

Sen. Toomey on Need to Fill Judicial Vacancies

(Republican - Pennsylvania) 01/10/12

"We need people in these seats soon," Mr. Toomey said. "I certainly hope we don't have to wait until after the election."

Sen. Scott Brown on Judicial Nominations & Independent Judiciary

(Republican - Massachusetts) 01/04/12

"Presidents have the right to appoint judges of their choosing, so long as they are qualified and understand and respect the limits of their responsibilities. In the Senate, I have voted to confirm nearly 90 percent of President Obama's judicial nominees. I also take the "advice and consent" responsibility seriously, and have voted against nominees whom I thought lacked experience or possessed views outside the mainstream."

Sen. Lee Statement on Senate Delay of Judicial Confirmation

(Republican - Utah) 12/23/11

"I am frustrated, particularly with regard to Judge Nuffer. He came out of committee two months ago," said Utah Republican Sen. Mike Lee on Friday. "There is absolutely no reason why we shouldn't have confirmed him before we got out. I expected he would be confirmed."

Sen. Cornyn Spokesperson on Pending Texas Judicial Nominees

(Republican - Texas) 12/16/11

A spokesman said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, remains confident that Guaderrama and Costa will be confirmed by the Senate. "Judge Guaderrama was approved unanimously by the Judiciary Committee, and Sen. Cornyn is confident that he will be confirmed by the Senate in the new year," said Scott Gosnell.

Sen. Murkowski on Christen: "It Often Takes a Little Time to Get the Best": Senator Speaks on Behalf of Legal Colleague, Advocating Judicial Appointment

(Republican - Alaska) 12/15/11

"Morgan Christen is an experienced, well-rounded attorney," said Murkowski. "She is an exceptionally well-rounded jurist with experience on the trial and appellate bench. She is an individual with a keen intellect and an impeccable reputation for integrity. She is highly regarded across the ideological spectrum in Alaska as a judge who keeps politics and ideology off the bench. Let me simply say that Morgan Christen is more than just a good judge. She is a good person. Justice will be well served by her confirmation to the Ninth Circuit, US Court of Appeals."

Sen. Lisa Murkowski Floor Statement following Senate Confirmation of Morgan Christen

(Republican - Alaska) 12/15/11

"We just celebrated the very successful nomination of Morgan Christen to the Ninth Circuit. I am really quite proud of Morgan and her accomplishments. As an Alaskan and as an Alaskan woman, to achieve what Morgan has achieved, to be the example she has set makes me quite proud today. So I am pleased the Senate gave her such a resounding confirmation. This is quite significant for us, and Alaskans are feeling good today. "

Sen. Lisa Murkowski Floor Statement Urging Support for Morgan Christen Nomination

(Republican - Alaska) 12/15/11

Sen. Isakson on Filibusters

(Republican - Georgia) 12/11/11

Isakson called it a “very rare” circumstance in which he would filibuster a nominee because of the perception that Halligan would be an “activist” judge.

Sen. Chambliss on Judicial Nominee Filibusters

(Republican - Georgia) 12/11/11

Chambliss said Halligan has “been somewhat controversial from a decision-making standpoint.” Leading Republicans proposed to change the rules to take away the 60-vote filibuster hurdle for judges, and the Isakson-Chambliss op-ed backed that plan. Instead, a bipartisan “Gang of 14” stepped in, setting out ground rules for filibusters only in “extraordinary circumstances.” “I don’t know whether I ought to be glad or disappointed we weren’t successful,” Chambliss said. “At the time we thought we were right.”

Sen. Lee on Judicial Nominations and Filibusters

(Republican - Utah) 12/07/11

Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) also said the Halligan vote was no watershed. Lee said the GOP treads lightly when it comes to filibustering judicial nominations, in part, for fear of antagonizing Democrats in the event that Republicans win the majority. “We don’t want to abuse [the filibuster of judicial nominees] because abusing it is wrong,” Lee said. “But also there are consequences attached to abusing it and that is [another reason] why we are not abusing it.”

Sen. Lisa Murkowski on Judicial Nominations and Confirmations

(Republican - Alaska) 12/07/11

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) said she is cautiously optimistic that more judges will be confirmed. She is helping to guide Morgan Christen’s nomination to join the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals through the Senate. “When we were looking at the schedule earlier this session, the mindset was that we would be able to get to her before the end of the year,” Murkowski said. “She has unanimous support coming out of the Judiciary Committee. In a confirmation hearing, there was not a cautionary word ... so I think that all is good. It remains to be seen how good.”

Sen. DeMint on Judicial Nominations

(Republican - South Carolina) 12/07/11

Graham and other Senate Republicans said they expect more of Obama’s judicial nominees to be approved by the Senate next year, as long as the nominees’ views are within the mainstream and they are properly vetted. “I don’t hear any difference in tone here [in the Senate GOP Conference] if they are reasonable, even if they are liberal,” Sen. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.) said. He added that Republicans reserve the right to object to judicial “activists ... [who] don’t have the temperament or the ability to look at things objectively.”

Sen. Lindsey Graham on Judicial Nominations

(Republican - South Carolina) 12/07/11

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) believes the golden rule applies in politics as much as it does in morality. “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you’ was a good rule a long time ago, and I think it applies today,” Graham said. “I just think we ought to run the place assuming you won’t be in charge one day.” Graham and other Senate Republicans said they expect more of Obama’s judicial nominees to be approved by the Senate next year, as long as the nominees’

views are within the mainstream and they are properly vetted. Graham stressed that his opposition to Halligan had more to do with the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals than her qualifications. Republicans contend that the court's workload isn't enough to merit another judge. Republicans argued that they had sought to fill the spot under President George W. Bush, but Democrats used the same argument about the workload being too light. "They opposed a Republican nomination to the D.C. Circuit Court because it was overprescribed," Graham said. "Some of us agreed with it then. I am not about to go to my Republican colleagues and say 'Alright, let's give them a position that they said was overprescribed.'" "Your prior position is coming back to haunt you," Graham said of Democratic opposition under a GOP president.

Sen. Murkowski Statement on Cloture Vote for Caitlin Halligan

(Republican - Alaska) 12/06/11

"I stated during the Bush Administration that judicial nominations deserved an up or down vote, except in "extraordinary circumstances" and my position has not changed simply because there is a different President making the nominations. "Let me be clear to my constituents and the President of the United States: This was a cloture vote to proceed to an up or down decision. I did not support Ms. Halligan's candidacy and would never have voted for her confirmation"

Sens. Hutchison, Cornyn Applaud Unanimous Senate Confirmation of Rodney Gilstrap as Federal District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas in Marshall

(Republican - Texas) 12/05/11

"Rodney Gilstrap has a good balance of legal experience, having served as both a county judge and as a private attorney," said Sen. Hutchison. "His public service and strong academic credentials combined to make him a strong choice for this judgeship in East Texas." "Mr. Gilstrap will bring a wealth of experience to the federal bench as both a private practitioner and a distinguished public servant," said Sen. Cornyn. "It is easy to see why he was the consensus candidate recommended to the President by myself, Sen. Hutchison and our Democrat colleagues in the Texas Congressional Delegation."

Sen. Cornyn confident Senate will confirm Judge Guaderrama

(Republican - Texas) 12/01/11

"I'm pleased the committee approved Judge Guaderrama's nomination, and I'm confident the Senate will follow suit," Cornyn said in a statement Thursday.

Sens. Kerry, Brown Applaud Hillman Nomination for Federal District Court in Worcester

(Democrat, Republican - Massachusetts) 11/30/11

Last August, the Senators recommended Hillman for the judicial vacancy in the U.S. District Court. "I was gratified to hear that the President took to heart everything we said in recommending Tim. Judge Hillman is the best of the best and he'll do a tremendous job on the bench in Worcester," said Sen. Kerry. "Judge Hillman is thoughtful, meticulous in his preparation, and his work on the reentry court is exactly the initiative I value in a judge. I was a prosecutor. I've seen exactly the cases he talked about, and I thought, this is a guy who has walked the walk when it comes to lowering recidivism and putting people back on track. I know he'll open up the courtroom and make it a community asset. There will be no learning curve with Tim, and I think he's going to build one hell of a legacy. I'm deeply grateful to the President for

nominating him, and as I told Tim today, I look forward to introducing him to the Judiciary Committee.” “I commend President Obama for accepting our recommendation of Judge Timothy Hillman,” said Sen. Brown. “As residents of Worcester know, Judge Hillman is a fair and superb jurist who has served his community with distinction. I am confident that Judge Hillman will continue to impress us all as the next federal judge in Worcester.”

Sen. Hatch on Nomination of Robert Shelby to U. S. District Court for Utah

(Republican - Utah) 11/30/11

U.S. Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), a member and former chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, issued the following statement on the nomination of Robert J. Shelby for the United States District Court for the District of Utah: “A man of keen intellect, Robert Shelby is a strong choice to serve on the U. S. District Court. Throughout his legal career, he has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the law. I look forward to the Judiciary Committee evaluating his nomination.”

Republican Senator Statements Against Judicial Nominee Filibusters

(Republican - Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Nevada, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah) 11/29/11

Sen. Murkowski Floor Statement Supporting Sharon Gleason Nomination

(Republican - Alaska) 11/15/11

"The Senate is today considering the nomination of Sharon Gleason. Sharon is the first woman to be nominated for United States district court judge in Alaska. She is an outstanding nominee and I regard it as a privilege to speak in support of her nomination today. ... I think she will make an exemplary U.S. district court judge. I am proud to support this nomination, and I would encourage my colleagues to do the same."

Sen. Grassley Floor Statement on Gleason & Rogers District Court Nominations

(Republican - Iowa) 11/15/11

Sen. Murkowski Lauds "Historic" Vote for Sharon Gleason, First Alaskan Woman on Federal Bench: Gleason's "Excellent Outlook," Careful Decision-Making Praised on the Senate Floor

(Republican - Alaska) 11/15/11

“She insists upon litigants being respectful of one another in litigation and during hearings. She spends many hours evaluating herself to insure that she is not only meeting her own standards about being fair to all sides but also behaves in a manner that leads the parties to know she is being fair. She takes great pains to articulate to parties how she will run a hearing and why she is ruling as she does. She has tremendous control of her own demeanor so that she maintains control of proceedings. As a result, parties almost universally leave a hearing or case feeling that she has understood them and thought carefully about her decision. She acts with an appreciation that for the litigants involved, the case she has before her is the most important thing in their lives at the time. She is and will continue to be a superb judge.”

Durbin, Kirk Statement on White House Nominees to Fill Federal Judgeship in Northern District

(Democrat, Republican - Illinois) 11/10/11

“We are pleased President Obama nominated John Tharp and John Lee to serve on the federal bench. Both individuals are eminently qualified and we will work together to ensure their swift confirmation in the Senate.”

Sen. Enzi Floor Statement Urging Support of Judge Skavdahl Nomination

(Republican - Wyoming) 11/03/11

I wish to ask for your wholehearted support for Judge Skavdahl of Wyoming. He was nominated by our Democratic Governor. He was appointed by the President, and he has the wholehearted support of our delegation. We have spoken for him in committee and are doing that again on the floor. We have a full statement we submitted. So I would thank you for your vote on this nomination. He came up through the courts in Wyoming and now will be a Federal judge, with your help.

Sen. Enzi first of Two Floor Statements supporting Judge Scott Skavdahl’s nomination

(Republican - Wyoming) 11/03/11

"I wish to thank Senator LEAHY and Senator GRASSLEY and their staffs for moving this nomination. Because of their efforts, I have this opportunity to express my support for Judge Scott Skavdahl’s nomination to serve on the bench of the U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming."

Sen. Barrasso Floor Statement Supporting Judge Skavdahl’s nomination

(Republican - Wyoming) 11/03/11

"I know Judge Skavdahl. I know his family. He is a judge I respect and admire from a family I respect and admire. I strongly encourage all of the Members of the Senate to join with Senator ENZI and join with me in supporting Judge Skavdahl’s nomination."

Sens. Enzi, Barrasso applaud confirmation of Skavdahl to District Court

(Republican - Wyoming) 11/03/11

Skavdahl was confirmed by the Senate to the appointment today by a vote of 96-0. “It is a great day for Wyoming when a skilled individual with deep ties to the state is confirmed to such an important position as the U.S. District Court,” said Enzi. “I am confident Judge Skavdahl will serve as a judge of distinction, following the United States Constitution.” “Judge Skavdahl is an excellent choice to fill the seat of retired Federal Judge William Downes,” said Barrasso. “He is respected for his integrity, ethics and commitment to the law. With his experience as both a successful attorney and trial judge, I’m confident he will make an outstanding addition to the U.S. District Court of Wyoming.”

Sen. Cornyn Introduces Judge David Guaderrama at Nominations Hearing

(Republican - Texas) 11/02/11

Republican Sens. John Cornyn and Kay Bailey Hutchison nominated Guaderrama and Costa. A federal judge is one of the most important, powerful posts in government. Appointments are for life. At the hearing, Cornyn introduced Guaderrama as a person with extensive judicial and life

experience as varied as working on a New Mexico farm as a boy to serving as a U.S. magistrate judge in El Paso, one of the busiest federal courts in the nation. "It is important that judges who preside over these very important cases understand not only a legal perspective but the perspective of jurors and the perspective of the people who seek justice in our courts," Cornyn said.

Sen. Vitter Applauds Steve Higginson's Confirmation to U.S. 5th Circuit Court Judge

(Republican - Louisiana) 10/31/11

"Steve Higginson will make an outstanding U.S. 5th Circuit Court judge – his intellect and work ethic as a federal prosecutor have won him admiration from all quarters," Vitter said. "I'm delighted the president followed my and Senator Landrieu's advice to nominate him and that the nomination process went smoothly."

Sen. Vitter Floor Statement supporting Higginson Confirmation

(Republican - Louisiana) 10/31/11

"I am very happy to work in a very close fashion with Senator LANDRIEU on all of the judicial nominations in Louisiana under President Obama. I have to say that work and that cooperation has gone more smoothly, with better results, than I could ever have imagined. So I am very pleased with that entire process. This nomination of Stephen Higginson is perhaps the strongest, most shining example of that. Senator LANDRIEU and I worked very closely together."

Senators Hutchison and Cornyn Submit U.S. Judicial Recommendations to White House

(Republican - Texas) 10/27/11

"we are recommending three individuals for your consideration regarding the federal judicial vacancy in the Eastern District of Texas, Sherman Office: Judge Jim Fallon, 15th District Court in Grayson County, Texas; Judge Martin Hoffman, 68th District Court in Dallas, Texas; Mr. Clyde Siebman, Senior Partner at Siebman, Reynolds, Burg, Phillips & Smith in Sherman, Texas

Sen. McCain Warns Nominations Holdups Could Hurt GOP

(Republican - Arizona) 10/24/11

Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) said last week that he has privately warned fellow GOP Senators not to go overboard in blocking President Barack Obama's nominees — noting it could hurt a future Republican president. "I have talked to my colleagues," McCain said. "For example, there is a candidate for the secretary of Commerce who wouldn't have been my choice, OK? But the president deserves to have his nominee unless there is a compelling reason not to. And I warn my colleagues, [if] you are going to vote against people just because you don't like them and they don't share your philosophy, you better be careful that that may happen to you when you have a Republican president."

Sen. Cornyn expects full Senate vote on Rodney Gilstrap nomination by end of year

(Republican - Texas) 10/24/11

[T]he president nominated Rodney Gilstrap, a partner in Marshall's Smith & Gilstrap, to fill Ward's bench. The Senate Judiciary Committee confirmed Gilstrap's nomination in September, and the full Senate is expected to vote by the end of the year, says U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas.

Sen. Toomey Praises Senate Approval Of Two PA Judicial Nominees

(Republican - Pennsylvania) 10/19/11

"Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to meet separately with both Mr. Hornak and Mr. Mariani, and I am very confident of their intellect, their experience, their integrity, temperament, commitment to public service and to their understanding of the proper role of a judge," Sen. Toomey said. "Mark Hornak has been a careful student of the law throughout his career and has demonstrated an intellectual curiosity and a commitment to integrity, which I know will serve him well. Robert Mariani's diligence, professionalism and knowledge of the law will be an asset to the bench. I believe that these character traits and this range of experience will enable them to effectively serve the people of Pennsylvania."... Sen. Toomey spoke in support of the three judicial nominees at their June Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearing as well as on the Senate floor on Monday.

Sen. Toomey Floor Statements Supporting Judge Bissoon & Floor Votes “as soon as possible” on two other PA judicial nominees

(Republican - Pennsylvania) 10/17/11

"I have supported President Obama's three district court nominees for Pennsylvania, even though they were first appointed before I was sworn in to the Senate. I am pleased this spirit of cooperation has led to today's confirmation vote for Judge Bissoon . I remain hopeful we will have a number of confirmation votes in the very near future as Senator Casey and I continue to work together to recommend qualified individuals to serve on the Federal bench. ... I would like to briefly express my support for two other Pennsylvania nominees who were also unanimously approved by the Judiciary Committee back in July. I hope they will each receive floor consideration very soon...I would certainly enjoy the opportunity to work closely with the chairman to ensure that we could have votes as soon as possible on the other nominees."

Sen. Boozman Floor Statement

(Republican - Arkansas) 10/13/11

"I am honored to recommend that the Senate confirm Judge Susan Hickey as a U.S. district judge for the Western District of Arkansas."

Sen. Hatch on Senate panel OKs Nuffer as Utah’s next federal judge

(Republican - Utah) 10/13/11

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, praised Nuffer’s competence as a judge. “He’s a man of integrity and character and fairness and impartiality,” Hatch said before the committee voted unanimously to approve Nuffer’s nomination.

Sen. Kyl Floor Statement Supporting Nomination of Jennifer Guerin Zipps

(Republican - Arizona) 10/03/11

"I strongly support the nomination of Magistrate Judge Jennifer Guerin Zipps to the Federal district court."

Sen. Hutchison Statement on Confirmation of Marina Garcia Marmolejo

(Republican - Texas) 10/03/11

“I am pleased that Ms. Marmolejo has been unanimously confirmed by the Senate to serve as a

U.S. District Judge. Ms. Marmolejo has both the experience and qualifications necessary for this important position.”

Sen. Snowe: Senate Confirms U.S. District Court Judge for Maine

(Republican - Maine) 10/03/11

Senator Snowe said: “I congratulate Ms. Torresen on becoming only the seventeenth judge to serve on our United States District Court over its 222-year history. Significantly, she will also be the first woman to serve on this particular court – a watershed moment for Maine. Notably, Ms. Torresen succeeds Judge D. Brock Hornby who has served our state with the highest of distinction for 21 years. Indeed, Judge Hornby received the Devitt Award, a singular honor given annually for the last 29 years to the outstanding federal judge in the nation. Ms. Torresen is being asked to continue the rich tradition of excellence in Maine’s federal judiciary, and I wish her all the best as she takes her seat on the bench.”

Sen. Conryn Statement on Confirmation of Marina Garcia Marmolejo

(Republican - Texas) 10/03/11

“I am pleased that the Senate unanimously confirmed Ms. Marmolejo to serve as U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Texas. Her record clearly demonstrates she is well qualified, and I know she will make an outstanding addition to the federal bench in Texas.”

Sen. Hutchison Statement on Confirmation of Marina Garcia Marmolejo

(Republican - Texas) 10/03/11

“I am pleased that Ms. Marmolejo has been unanimously confirmed by the Senate to serve as a U.S. District Judge. Ms. Marmolejo has both the experience and qualifications necessary for this important position.”

Sen. Lindsey Graham Floor Statement Supporting Judge Henry Floyd's Fourth Circuit Nomination

(Republican - South Carolina) 10/03/11

"Judge Henry Floyd has been nominated by President Obama to serve on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, VA. He has a lot of bipartisan support from South Carolina. He was nominated by President Bush to be a district court judge. He served as a State court judge before that, and he has a distinguished record as a State and Federal jurist. He is an outstanding choice by the President to serve on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. I have known Henry Floyd for many years. I have practiced law with him.... I want to thank the Obama administration, and I urge my colleagues to vote for this well-qualified, fine man to go to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals."

Sen. Collins Floor Statement in Support of Nomination of Nancy Torresen

(Republican - Maine) 10/03/11

" I am honored to support the nomination of Nancy Torresen to be a U.S. District Judge for Maine. She is eminently well qualified to be confirmed."

Sen. Kyl Floor Statement Supporting Nomination of Jennifer Guerin Zipp

(Republican - Arizona) 10/03/11

"I strongly support the nomination of Magistrate Judge Jennifer Guerin Zipps to the Federal district court."

Sen. Vitter Floor Statement Supporting Nannette Jolivet-Brown's nomination

(Republican - Louisiana) 10/03/11

"I am happy to support Nannette Jolivet-Brown's nomination to the Eastern District of Louisiana. She is an experienced, real world practitioner with strong ties to the Louisiana legal community. I was very pleased when the president nominated my former classmate at Tulane Law School to the Federal bench."

Sen. Lindsey Graham Floor Statement Supporting Approval of Tim Cain Nomination

(Republican - South Carolina) 09/20/11

"Tim was my law partner, ... I thank President Obama for nominating him. I appreciate the support from Senator Leahy and Senator Grassley working this nomination through the process. This will be a big win for the State of South Carolina and all who come before Judge Cain.... This is probably one of the most satisfying moments I have had as a Senator"

Sen. Johanns testimony in support of Justice John Gerrard's Nomination

(Republican - Nebraska) 09/20/11

"I will do everything I possibly can to bring his nomination to a vote."

Sen. Hatch Introduces Judge David Nuffer In Confirmation Hearings For U.S. District Court For The District Of Utah; Utah Senator Calls U.S. Magistrate Judge a "Judge of the Highest Caliber"

(Republican - Utah) 09/20/11

"I am proud to introduce him to the committee and to recommend his swift and unanimous confirmation by the full Senate."

Judge Jordan Completes Senate Testimony!

(Republican - Utah) 09/20/11

From a well-placed source: ... Sen. Hatch on the Committee said "I am certainly going to support you" and that the Committee is doing a good job in moving judicial nominees and "should do even better."

Sen. Rubio press aide on Nominee to 11th Circuit Court of Appeals

(Republican - Florida) 09/04/11

According to his press aide, ... Sen. Rubio "has heard nothing but positive things about Judge Jordan, and he looks forward to presenting his nomination before the Judiciary Committee for its consideration."

Sen. Toomey on judicial selection and confirmation

(Republican - Pennsylvania) 08/09/11

[Sen. Toomey] "said he and Casey "have a great working relationship." "He's a very likable guy. He's a very decent and honorable guy," Toomey said. "We disagree on a lot of public policy issues, but we've both been looking for ways we can do things cooperatively and we found a

number of areas.” One of those ways was the judicial nomination process for the federal bench. With three vacancies in the Middle District of Pennsylvania, which serves a large swath of the state from Williamsport to Harrisburg, Wilkes-Barre to Scranton, Toomey said he’s hopeful the full Senate should take a confirmation vote in the next two months for Scranton attorney Robert Mariani’s nomination. And the process for nominating two others is something he and Casey are working on. Toomey said the process has been a slow one, but when it comes to lifetime appointments like federal judgeships, it should be a deliberate, well-vetted process. “It was important to me that Sen. Casey and I agree on a process that would make sure that we were getting the best possible candidates,” Toomey said. He said the vetting committees are at work reviewing dozens of applicants. “We want to move as quickly as we can consistent with making sure that we are thoroughly vetting these candidates so we can get really some great people serving on the court. ... I think you’re going to see us fill these vacancies and stay on top of them and we’re going to get great people on the bench.””

Sen. Cornyn on Senate Failure to Act on Judicial Nominations

(Republican - Texas) 08/04/11

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., chairman of the committee, said GOP leaders should explain why they refused to confirm nominees for judgeships in Texas, Louisiana, Missouri, South Carolina, Tennessee, Florida, Maine, New York, Arkansas, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. “Almost all of the energy was fueling the debt-ceiling debate, and unfortunately there was some unfinished business before the adjournment and so we basically ran out of time,” said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, a GOP Senate leadership member who sits on the Judiciary Committee.

MA Senators jointly recommend two for federal judgeships

(- Massachusetts) 08/04/11

"It is an honor to recommend Judge Timothy S. Hillman and Judge Jeffrey Kinder for your consideration for the Worcester and Springfield posts on the U.S. District Court for Massachusetts."

Senate Judiciary Committee Approves Three Pennsylvania Judicial Nominees [Sen. Toomey & Casey Press Release]

(- Pennsylvania) 07/21/11

"Today, Pennsylvania faces a shortage of U.S. district court judges, and it is essential to work in a bipartisan manner to address this concern," Sen. Toomey said. "I therefore have been working closely with Sen. Casey on judicial nominations for our state to help confirm qualified, experienced individuals with unquestioned honesty and integrity. I support these three nominees because I am confident that they will live up to these standards, and I urge the Senate to confirm them as soon as possible." "I am very pleased that these well-qualified candidates can now come before the Senate for a confirmation vote," Sen. Casey said. "It is imperative that these vacancies are filled as soon as possible to address the shortage of U.S. district court judges in Pennsylvania. This issue transcends partisanship and I look forward to continuing to work with Sen. Toomey to ensure that Pennsylvania has the most experienced, accomplished and talented judges on our courts."

Sens. Pryor, Boozman Offer Recommendations for the U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas

(- Arkansas) 07/20/11

“The “advise and consent” role in the judicial process is more personal and challenging when it involves your home state,” Pryor said. “Arkansas has many well-qualified candidates who could fill this position. I am proud to put forth these individuals who I strongly believe would serve the bench with integrity, fairness and the proper judicial temperament.” “I congratulate the individuals that Senator Pryor has put forward to the White House to fill this vacant seat,” Boozman said. “I am confident that the Senate will confirm an experienced candidate who is honest and will uphold our nation’s laws to successfully serve on the bench.”

SENATORS CORNYN, HUTCHISON RECOMMEND COSTA & GUADERRAMA FOR THE FEDERAL BENCH

(Republican - Texas) 07/19/11

Boozman, Pryor Applaud Committee Action to Advance Judge Susan Hickey's Nomination

(- Arkansas) 07/14/11

“This is an important step in Judge Hickey’s confirmation process. Her experience, impartial demeanor and reputation amongst her peers give me faith that Judge Hickey will do a great job as the U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas. I am hopeful that her confirmation process continues to move forward quickly,” Boozman said. “I am pleased the Committee overwhelmingly recognized today that Judge Hickey’s experience, integrity and temperament makes her an ideal candidate for this position,” Pryor said. “I’m hopeful that the full Senate will swiftly move to confirm her.” The committee approved Judge Hickey’s nomination by a vote of 15-3, and she must now be confirmed by the full Senate.

Sen. Murkowski Press Release: Alaska’s Senators Share Historic Day with Judicial Nominees; Murkowski, Begich Introduce First Two Alaskan Women Nominees to the Federal Bench

(Republican - Alaska) 07/13/11

“While it is historic whenever a judicial vacancy arises, today’s hearing is especially historic because if confirmed, Morgan Christen and Sharon Gleason will be the first two Alaskan women to serve on the federal bench,” Murkowski said. “As a member of the Alaska Bar, and as the senior Senator from Alaska, let me say that the President could not have nominated two more qualified individuals to fill these seats.”

Sen. Lee on Need to Confirm Pending Judicial Nominee & to Fill Other Vacancy

(Republican - Utah) 07/12/11

“I’m thrilled about the nomination of David Nuffer to fill the district court vacancy,” said Sen. Mike Lee, a Republican who sits on the Senate Judiciary Committee, along with Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah. “He has a solid record as a magistrate judge. He’s well-liked by litigators of every stripe and he’s well-known for being a fair-minded judge who has a solid background in law.” Lee said he and Hatch both returned “blue slips” to the president —a sheet of paper endorsing Nuffer to become the state’s next district court judge. That paves the way for Nuffer to go before the Senate Judiciary Committee for questioning in coming weeks, an event Lee

predicts will happen in September, following an August recess for lawmakers. Lee said he's hopeful Nuffer will pass through confirmation and be able to start his judgeship later this fall. But even if Nuffer eases through the confirmation process, Utah is still left with another vacancy on its federal bench—a fact many attorneys—and that Lee admits—is troubling. "I'm anxious to get the other position filled," Lee said. "The vacancies have been open for awhile and it puts a strain on our judicial system, anytime they are operating with less than a full complement of judges."

Sen. Kirk Recommends John Tharp for Federal Judicial Nomination

(Republican - Illinois) 07/05/11

"Under Senate tradition for Illinois, the senator from the party not in control of the White House generally makes nomination recommendations to the White House for one federal district court judgeship for every three of the party in power. Under that tradition, this is the first recommendation by Senator Kirk. Senators Kirk and Durbin have consulted regarding each other's recommendations and will work to secure prompt confirmation of nominees. This arrangement is intended to ensure the orderly filling of federal judge vacancies on the Illinois bench."

Sen. McCain Statement on Judicial Nominations

(Republican - Arizona) 06/13/11

"It's the sign of the times," Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) said of partisanship slowing down the process.

Sen. Casey Statement on Judicial Nominations

(Democrat - Pennsylvania) 06/13/11

"[In] another good faith effort, **Pennsylvania Sens. Bob Casey (D) and Pat Toomey (R)** made an agreement a few weeks ago to move forward together when considering judicial nominees. 'We've just got to try to work together to move our nation forward,' Casey said. 'Sen. Toomey and I are trying to be a good example of that.'"

Sen. Toomey Supports Three Judicial Nominees For Western And Middle PA Districts

(Republican - Pennsylvania) 06/07/11

"Today, Pennsylvania faces a shortage of U.S. district court judges, and it is essential to work in a bipartisan manner to address this concern. I therefore have been working closely with Sen. Casey on judicial nominations for our state to help confirm qualified, experienced individuals with unquestioned honesty and integrity. I decided to support the president's three nominees because I am confident that they will live up to these standards."

Sens. Hutchison & Cornyn Cosponsor Bill to Create More Judgeships in Texas' Border Districts

(Republican - Texas) 05/18/11

"Several of the most 'overburdened' federal judicial districts in our country are located along Texas' southern border. They deal with a high volume of drug and human trafficking cases. We must provide these districts with the necessary resources to protect our rule of law and address the border violence that threatens the freedom and security of Texans who live near the border.

This legislation specifically targets districts with the highest caseloads in the country, adding three new judgeships in Texas,” said Sen. Hutchison. Sen. Cornyn said, “Texas and federal law enforcement that fight drug cartels and human smugglers along our southern border need every resource and tool at their disposal. This bill will help relieve the massive backlog of cases in these districts where judges and prosecutors face a dramatic rise in drug- and smuggling-related cases. This emergency legislation addresses some of the most acute staffing needs in the five busiest federal district benches--including two in Texas.”

Sen. Lisa Murkowski’s statement on the nomination of Morgan Christen for the Ninth Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals

(Republican - Alaska) 05/18/11

“Judge Christen is an outstanding choice to fill Alaska’s sole seat on the Ninth Circuit.... I will support her wholeheartedly through the confirmation process.”

Sen. Vitter on President Obama Fifth Circuit & District Court Nominations

(Republican - Louisiana) 05/06/11

"Steve Higginson will make an outstanding U.S. 5th Circuit Court judge -- his intellect and work ethic as a federal prosecutor have won him admiration from all quarters," Vitter said. "I'm delighted the president followed my and Sen. Landrieu's advice. Based on this, I'll be signing both Steve Higginson's and Judge Triche-Milazzo's blue slips immediately. ... On Wednesday, the two Louisiana senators were side by side at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing offering effusive praise for New Orleans City Attorney Nannette Jolivet-Brown, whom Obama nominated for a seat on the federal district court bench."

Sen. Collins praises pick for US District Court judge

(Republican - Maine) 05/01/11

Unless something unforeseen arises during the hearing, Collins will advocate for her nomination and urge Democratic and Republican Senate leaders to schedule a floor vote promptly. "She is clearly very well qualified," said Collins, who spoke about Torresen with people in the legal community whose opinions she respects. "She has extensive experience as a prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office. She appears to have the right temperament for a judge and the integrity I look for."

Senators Casey and Toomey Announce Bipartisan Agreement on Judicial Vacancies

(Democrat - Pennsylvania) 04/26/11

“Recommending and confirming strong judicial candidates is among the most significant responsibilities of a U.S. Senator,” said Senator Casey. “This bipartisan agreement reached with Senator Toomey will go a long way to make sure excellent candidates are nominated and confirmed.”

Press Release of Senator Toomey: Senators Casey and Toomey Announce Bipartisan Agreement on Judicial Vacancies

(Republican - Pennsylvania) 04/26/11

“In recent years, judicial selections at the national level have too often become overly politicized. That’s why I am so pleased that Sen. Casey and I have reached this bipartisan agreement to

ensure that the most capable, knowledgeable and ethical candidates become federal judges serving Pennsylvania,” Sen. Toomey said.

[Sen. Lisa Murkowski on Alaska Judicial Nomination](#)

(Republican - Alaska) 04/06/11

Republicans have blocked many of Obama's judicial nominations, but Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, said she would work to keep Gleason from that fate. "President Obama made history today in nominating Judge Sharon Gleason to serve on the United States District Court for the District of Alaska," Murkowski said in a prepared statement. "I think Judge Gleason is a good choice, and I look forward to helping her through the confirmation process."

[Senators Pryor, Boozman Announce Nomination of Susan Hickey for U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas](#)

(Republican - Arkansas) 04/06/11

“I am confident Hickey will do a good job representing the people of the Western District of Arkansas,” Boozman said. “She is highly recommended by her peers and I am hopeful she will be confirmed by the Senate.”

[Senators Pryor, Boozman Announce Nomination of Susan Hickey for U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas](#)

(Democrat - Arkansas) 04/06/11

“Hickey’s experience as Circuit Judge and former law clerk for Judge Barnes will serve her well as U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas,” Pryor said. “I look forward to moving her nomination forward through the Senate confirmation process.”

[Sen. Lindsey Graham supports District Court Nominee](#)

(Republican - South Carolina) 03/17/11

Mary Geiger "Lewis was recommended to Obama by House Assistant Democratic Leader Jim Clyburn, a Columbia Democrat, and supported by Sen. Lindsey Graham, a Seneca Republican."

[Sen. Durbin Floor Statement on Illinois Judicial Emergencies and Nominations](#)

(Democrat - Illinois) 03/07/11

"Since last August, the Central District of Illinois has had only one Federal district court judge out of four. There are supposed to be four and, unfortunately, three seats have been vacant. Those three vacancies were all designated as judicial emergencies by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. **... I also wish to thank my colleague, Senator Mark Kirk, who has joined me in presenting these nominees to the Senate.**"

[Senator Vitter Supports Quick Confirmation of Obama judicial Nominee](#)

(Republican - Louisiana) 03/02/11

Nanette Jolivet-Brown, with the enthusiastic backing of both Sens. Landrieu and David Vitter, R-La., should have little trouble gaining Senate confirmation. "I look forward to supporting Nanette Jolivet Brown's quick Senate confirmation," Vitter said. "She is an experienced, real world practitioner with strong ties to the Louisiana legal community. Looking ahead to our Fifth Circuit vacancy, I will demand the same qualities in a nominee there."

Sen. Lindsey Graham Applauds Nomination of Judge Tim Cain

(Republican - South Carolina) 02/16/11

“I am very pleased that President Obama has chosen to nominate Tim Cain for the Federal District Court. Tim has been a family court judge in Oconee County for many years. He’s a former law partner and one of the finest men I have ever known. He is well-grounded and has a conservative approach to the law. I think he will make an outstanding Federal Court judge for the people of South Carolina. I look forward to shepherding his nomination through the United States Senate.”

Sen. Lindsey Graham Applauds Nomination of Judge Henry Floyd

(Republican - South Carolina) 01/27/11

U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham (R-South Carolina) today made this statement on the nomination of Judge Henry Floyd to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. “Judge Henry Floyd is a solid choice who will serve the people of the 4th Circuit well. I’ve known him for years and know he is a respected lawyer who understands the role of a judge. He compiled an outstanding record as a federal district court judge and is well-prepared for the responsibilities of the appellate court. I very much appreciate the Obama Administration nominating him to this important position and look forward to his confirmation in the Senate.”

Texas Senators Support Nelva Gonzales Ramos nomination for federal judgeship

(Republican - Texas) 01/26/11

Nelva Gonzales Ramos, a local Democratic district judge, is the bipartisan pick to replace long-serving U.S. District Judge Hayden Head.... Ramos was the sole nominee Republican Sens. Kay Bailey Hutchison and John Cornyn also supported.... “Judge Ramos has strong Texas roots,” Cornyn said in a written statement. “She has an outstanding educational background from Texas State University and the University of Texas School of Law, and her valuable experience as a civil litigation lawyer and State District Court judge will surely help her serve the Texas public well.”

Sen. Johanns Supports Gerrard For Federal Judgeship

(Republican - Nebraska) 01/12/11

Sen. Mike Johanns (R-Neb.) today announced his support for the nomination of Nebraska Supreme Court Justice John Gerrard to the U.S. District Court for the District of Nebraska. "Justice Gerrard is a top-notch member of the Nebraska Supreme Court with a reputation as a disciplined judge," Johanns said. "I look forward to being his advocate throughout the confirmation process in the Senate."

Key court vacancies will be filled soon, Hatch says

(Republican - Utah) 01/05/11

Deseret News: Two seats on the federal bench in Utah still await appointees, and there is no permanent selection for U.S. attorney for Utah. Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, says he expects nominees for key vacancies to be named within the coming months. There are currently 94 vacancies on federal trial and appeals courts. Those nominations, plus those for U.S. attorneys, have become a political football, but Hatch says he thinks the logjam may open up soon.... Hatch said he knows what the holdup is but declined to go into details. "I pretty well do and I'm not

really going to talk about it here," he said. "But we'll just work on it, and we'll get it solved, hopefully, in the near future."... "I'm working on it and hopefully in the next few months we'll get some names up and we'll get those things moving," Hatch said.

Sen. Mike Lee on judicial vacancies

(Republican - Utah) 01/05/11

Deseret News: U.S. Chief Justice John G. Roberts recently urged the U.S. Senate to stop holding up judicial confirmations for political reasons, citing overworked judges and mounting vacancies across the country. "It means the White House has been slow in getting some nominations moved forward," said Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah. "I'm sure they'll be moving on those soon."

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