

HOME-STATE GOP SENATOR STATEMENTS SUPPORTING PENDING JUDICIAL NOMINEES (2011)

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See also Senate Judiciary Chairman Patrick Leahy's many detailed statements at http://www.judgingtheenvironment.org/senators/?issue=&nominee=&senator=136804270&senator_party=&senators_state=

-Glenn Sugameli, Staff Attorney, Judging the Environment, Defenders of Wildlife

[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 Zipps

(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 Jolivette 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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