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Letter to the Editor

Justice prevails

By Glenn Sugameli

Russell Wheeler urged all senators to follow the eight states where federal trial court nominees are recommended by bipartisan commissions that the senators jointly appoint (“Justice delayed is vacant bench,” Sept. 9). The American Bar Association agreed.

Wheeler states that the federal judicial vacancy rate now is low by historical standards.

Indeed, after a GOP Senate pocket filibustered more than 60 of President Clinton’s nominees, the Senate confirmed 316 Bush-nominated judges and cut vacancies by more than half. A Sept. 9 Judiciary Committee hearing included five of the 24 pending nominees who have received ABA ratings.

President Bush created the remaining artificial vacancies by submitting nominations too late to be processed and by insisting on nominees with political agendas that unfairly favor big corporations.

The current system can work. Bush’s selections have been confirmed when he has respected the Senate’s role, and abandoned his refusals even to discuss nominees.

- Glenn Sugameli,

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