

**Republican Senators from 15 States Urge Immediate Action to Fill Their Judicial Vacancies  
(CO, FL, ID, IN, KS, LA, ND, OH, OK, PA, SC, TN, TX, UT, WI) (Sept. 13, 2016)  
Including all 16 Republican senators with nominees on the Senate Floor**

Compiled by [Glenn Sugameli](#), founder in 2001 and head of nonpartisan [Judging the Environment](#) judicial nominations project, Senior Attorney, [Defenders of Wildlife](#), and Robert Meltz, Special Counsel, Defenders of Wildlife.

**All 16 Republican home-state senators with a judicial nominee (or nominees) the Senate Judiciary Committee approved and is pending on the Senate floor have spoken favorably about them and want to see a confirmation vote, as have other Republican senators with nominees who are still in Committee.**

Limited to current vacancies [for more including confirmed nominees [click here](#). Emphases added.

**[Click on these State names for Senator statement links/excerpts for each State](#)**

**[Colorado](#) [Florida](#) [Idaho](#) [Indiana](#) [Kansas](#) [Louisiana](#) [North Dakota](#) [Ohio](#) [Oklahoma](#) [Pennsylvania](#) [South Carolina](#) [Tennessee](#) [Texas](#) [Utah](#) [Wisconsin](#)**

**SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADERS**

**[Senate Majority Leader McConnell Floor Statement \[attempting without explanation to skip longest pending judicial nominees\]](#)**

(Republican - Kentucky) 09/07/16

"I am prepared to enter into an agreement to process a bipartisan package of four more judicial nominations that would include a California judicial nomination, two Pennsylvania judicial nominations, and a Utah judicial nomination."

**[Sen. Cornyn on Republican Senators support for confirming district judges](#)**

(Republican - Texas) 07/14/16

"Certainly on district court judges, that's something that a number of people would like to — on our side — would like to see progress," Cornyn said when asked whether the Senate is preparing to stop confirming judges this year. The second-ranking Senate Republican is dealing with 10 federal vacancies in Texas.

**[Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Grassley on judicial nomination hearings](#)**

(Republican - Iowa) 07/14/16

The powerful committee's chairman, Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), said at Wednesday's hearing that he has held hearings for 49 judicial nominees this Congress, while at the same point in Bush's final two years, the Democratic-led Judiciary panel had done the same for 47 picks. Grassley has made it clear he believes generally the Senate will stop confirming lifetime judges when the Senate recesses after this week, if only to abide by precedent. But he stressed there will be exceptions. For example, a Judiciary Committee member may want a hearing for a home-state judicial nominee well after the Thurmond rule kicks in. "I believe that there's always exceptions to the Thurmond-Leahy rule, and I would entertain those exceptions that have been in the past," Grassley said, who added no decisions will be made before September.

**[Sen. McConnell on confirming judicial nominees](#)**

(Republican - Kentucky) 06/08/16

"We continue to process judicial nominations, and we have done so even when a majority of the Republican conference did not support the nominee, as was the case with the district court nominee from Maryland, whom we confirmed before the recess.... We will continue to process his judicial nominations, but the minority is not going to dictate to the majority when and how we will do so."

**Sen. McConnell: Senate will continue to confirm judges for the foreseeable future**

(Republican - Kentucky) 03/15/16

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., told reporters ... that he is open to moving judicial nominees other than Garland. "We've continued to talk about the way forward on judges," McConnell said on Tuesday. "We've confirmed a number of them this year. And we'll continue to do that for the, you know, the foreseeable future."

**Senate Judiciary Chairman Grassley statement on judicial nominee hearings and confirmations at Committee business meeting** (Republican - Iowa) 06/16/16

"I think I want to do as much as I can to have hearings before a very loosely enforced and sometimes strictly enforced Leahy-Thurmond Rule kicks in so that the Committee is doing what we can do. When things come up on the Floor is somebody else's decision not mine....in 2014, 11 or 12 judges that went through in December ... so let's stop trying to predict the future; we don't know what the future is going to hold, and do what our job is, this is what I am doing."

**Sen. Grassley hopes Floor vote on New Jersey and Nebraska judicial nominees very shortly**

(Republican - Iowa) 06/16/16

"I would hope that we could very shortly we could vote on two judges on the Floor because I had to approve the hotline of them; because I would approve hotlining anytime people ask me to, according to the order they came out of the Committee, New Jersey and Nebraska. Hopefully we get them up on the Floor."

**Prepared Statement by Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa, Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee, Executive Business Meeting** (Republican - Iowa) 05/19/16

"During the last four presidential election years, the last confirmation vote of a circuit court nominee occurred before the summer recess. And the last confirmation vote of a district court nominee occurred in the fall of that year. And I'd note that while there have been nominations hearings held as late as September, my good friend then-Chairman Leahy made clear a number of times that those hearings were "an exception under the Thurmond Rule" and "an accommodation" to other Senators on the Committee.... going forward, like I said last week, I suspect there will be more judicial nominees confirmed by the full Senate. ... In this Committee, we're continuing to process judicial nominees and hold hearings.... At the end of the day, because there is not a hard and fast rule, the best way I know how to proceed is to look to what has been done in the past, and roughly follow the examples of my predecessors. Based upon prior practice and past statements, the Leahy-Thurmond rule will kick in when the Senate recesses in mid-July. But remember, then-Chairman Leahy has made exceptions, as he called them, to the rule in order to accommodate members of this Committee, so, there can always be limited exceptions."

**Sen. Lindsey Graham at Judiciary Committee hearing he chaired on 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit and ID, NY & SC district court nominees**

(Republican - South Carolina) 06/21/16

[On 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit nominee Jennifer Puhl] "Excellent job. I look forward to moving you through the process." [At conclusion of hearing on all nominees] "I will do everything I can to move you through the process quickly because we need more judges but more importantly we need good judges, and I think you will fit that bill."

**REPUBLICAN HOME STATE SENATORS FROM 15 STATES**

**COLORADO**

[Sens. Bennet, Gardner Urge Judiciary Committee to Consider Regina Rodriguez Nomination: President Nominated Rodriguez in April Following Bennet, Gardner Recommendations](#)

(Republican - Colorado) 07/12/16

Colorado U.S. Senators Michael Bennet and Cory Gardner today urged the Senate Judiciary Committee to work swiftly to consider the nomination of Regina Rodriguez to fill the vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado. The Colorado senators wrote to Judiciary Committee Chairman Charles Grassley and Ranking Member Patrick Leahy urging them to schedule a hearing and a vote on confirmation as soon as possible.... " **Given the court's caseload, it's crucial that the Judiciary Committee move quickly and thoroughly to consider this nomination,**" Bennet said. "Regina Rodriguez is eminently qualified to serve on the District Court. We're confident that her impressive background in both the public and private sectors will serve her well on the federal bench." "Regina Rodriguez has a long record of service to Colorado," said Gardner. "She is immensely qualified to serve on the federal bench, and I'm certain that her broad experience will allow her to better serve Coloradans in a new capacity as a judge on the U.S. District Court for Colorado."

[Sens. Bennet & Gardner letter to Senate Judiciary Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Leahy](#)

(Republican - Colorado) 07/12/16

"We write to request that the Senate Judiciary Committee move swiftly to schedule a hearing and a vote on the nomination of Regina M. Rodriguez to fill the vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado.... Ms. Rodriguez has the experience, character, and temperament to serve on the federal bench. **It is our hope that the Senate Judiciary Committee will consider the nomination of Regina Rodriguez as soon as possible.**"

[Sen. Gardner Statement on President's Nomination to Colorado District Court](#)

(Republican - Colorado) 04/28/16

President Obama nominated Regina Rodriguez to the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado. In August, Gardner announced a Judicial Evaluation Committee tasked with making recommendations to fill the Colorado judgeship, and in November, the Committee unanimously recommended four highly qualified legal professionals, including Rodriguez. In February, Gardner joined Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO) in submitting recommendations to fill the impending vacancy to the White House. Rodriguez was one of the recommendations put forward by Sen. Gardner's Judicial Vacancy Committee. "Regina Rodriguez is one of Denver's best litigators, and has served Colorado well," said Gardner. "Her experience is a testament to her qualifications to serve on the federal bench, and the opportunity to meet with her provided me further confirmation of that. **I applaud the progress made to fill the vacancy and look forward to working toward Regina's confirmation.**"

[Sen. Gardner Sends Recommendations for Colorado Judicial Vacancy to White House, Looks Forward to Confirming Nominee](#)

(Republican - Colorado) 02/09/16 Colorado U.S. Senators ... today sent their recommendations to fill the upcoming vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado. Judge Robert Blackburn announced that he will take senior status in April, creating the vacancy and leaving the already overworked District court with six judges. .... "I'm proud of the progress that's been made to fill the vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado," said Gardner. " .... We sent strong candidates to the White House, and **I look forward to working to confirm a nominee for the judgeship.**" Bennett and Gardner both recommended [three individuals].

[Sen. Gardner Announces Judicial Evaluation Committee Recommendations, Hopes for Progress Toward Filling Vacancy](#)

(Republican - Colorado) 11/03/15 "I appreciate the hard work done by the Judicial Evaluation Committee," Gardner said. "They devoted countless hours to carefully reviewing applicants and interviewing finalists in order to ensure that Colorado has the most qualified

legal mind possible on the federal bench. I look forward to reviewing their recommendations and **making progress towards filling this vacancy.**”

### **[Sen. Gardner Announces Evaluation Committee to Fill Colorado Judgeship](#)**

(Republican - Colorado) 08/03/15 Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO) today announced a Judicial Evaluation Committee that will begin vetting applicants for an upcoming vacancy on the U.S. District Court of Colorado. .... The number of judgeships on the court has remained the same for over 30 years, despite the state’s population growing by 65 percent and judicial workload steadily increasing. Now the court is one of the busiest in the country, with over 600 weighted cases per judgeship. Filling this vacancy quickly would keep the District Court fully staffed and at least maintain the status quo.... “I take my responsibility to recommend Colorado judicial nominees to the President seriously and **there is particular urgency in filling this vacancy,**” said Gardner.

## **FLORIDA**

### **[Sen. Rubio clears 3 district court nominees](#)**

(Republican - Florida) 06/02/16

Sen. Marco Rubio's office said today that he and Sen. Bill Nelson have submitted "blue slips" for three U.S. District Court nominees, advancing them toward confirmation. They are Judge Patricia D. Barksdale, for the Middle District of Florida; William F. Jung, Middle District of Florida; and Judge Philip R. Lammens, for the Northern District of Florida. his office issued a statement. “Senator Rubio recently returned the blue slip for three judges to fill other vacancies throughout Florida ...” spokeswoman Olivia Perez-Cubas said. "Florida has very busy federal courts and Senator Rubio would like to see judicial vacancies filled promptly with consensus picks who can be swiftly confirmed in a period of divided government."

## **IDAHO**

### **[Senate Judiciary approves Judge Nye for Idaho federal judge; Crapo, Risch hoping for full Senate vote in Sept.](#)**

(Republican - Idaho) 07/14/16

Sens. Crapo and Risch introduced Nye to the Judiciary Committee at his hearing on June 21, highlighted his credentials and unanimous well-qualified rating from the American Bar Association, and urged the panel to swiftly approve his nomination. Lindsay Nothorn, spokesman for Crapo, said the two will continue pushing for Nye’s confirmation. “There were a lot of people who said we couldn’t get it out of committee, we couldn’t even get a hearing,” he said. “And we have been pushing, **we did get a hearing, we have gotten the committee to approve it. So we’re staying confident that we can get a floor vote and get Judge Nye serving.**”

### **[Sens. Crapo, Risch Praise Senate Judiciary Committee's Unanimous Vote for Judge Nye: Nomination Reported to the Full Senate for Consideration](#)**

(Republican - Idaho) 07/14/16

“I thank my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee for taking up Judge Nye’s nomination quickly and for unanimously reporting his nomination to the full Senate for consideration,” said Crapo following the vote. “Judge Nye has my support, the support of Senator Risch and the support of the White House. I look forward to building on that momentum when the full Senate considers Judge Nye’s nomination. **The people of Idaho must be assured that they are served by well qualified judges and I will work with my colleagues to see that Judge Nye’s nomination is confirmed.**” “Judge Nye is a sound and principled jurist and I applaud my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee for unanimously voting to move his nomination to the Senate floor for a final vote.” said Risch. “**I will**

**continue to work with my colleagues to have Judge Nye's nomination confirmed as expeditiously as possible.** The people of Idaho are depending on it.”

### **Sen. Crapo's spokesman on Idaho district judge nominee on agenda for Judiciary Committee**

(Republican - Idaho) 07/05/16

The nomination of Idaho Judge David Nye to be the state's next U.S. District Judge is on the agenda for the Senate Judiciary Committee's meeting this Thursday. However, that doesn't necessarily guarantee a vote on Thursday; the committee's rules allow any new business appearing on the agenda for the first time to be held over for a week, and that's often been the case with nominations. **“We're just hoping for a vote as soon as possible,”** said Lindsay Nothorn, spokesman for Idaho Sen. Mike Crapo. “He's been before the committee, things seemed to go well. So we're just hoping. ... Sometimes these things can be done relatively quickly ... if there's no opposition.”

### **Sens. Crapo and Risch on Floor time for Idaho district court nominee**

(Republican - Idaho) 06/21/16

The Judiciary Committee didn't vote on Tuesday. After it does, **Crapo and Risch will work with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's office to schedule floor time for Nye,** said Risch spokeswoman Suzanne Wrasse. Crapo spokesman Lindsay Nothorn said he hopes Nye is confirmed before the Senate recesses in mid-July, and Graham gave no indication any of the nominees who appeared before the committee Tuesday would get held up. “I just think all three of you should be proud of your accomplishments,” he said. “I'll do everything I can to move you through the process quickly.”

### **Sens. Crapo, Risch, Deliver Nye Nomination to Senate Judiciary Committee: Idaho's Senators Introduce Judge Nye to Senate Colleagues at Nomination Hearing**

(Republican - Idaho) 06/21/16

The nominee, Idaho Sixth District Judge David C. Nye of Pocatello, was introduced by both Senators to their colleagues on the Senate Judiciary Committee, the first step toward his confirmation. “I appreciate the opportunity to join Senator Risch in offering our enthusiastic support for Judge David Nye on his nomination to be a U.S. District Judge for the District of Idaho,” said Crapo during his introduction of Nye. **“I strongly encourage this committee to approve Judge Nye's nomination as soon as possible** so that the people of Idaho can continue to be assured that they will be served by well qualified judges.” **“I want to underscore the necessity of moving Judge Nye's nomination along,”** said Risch. “I know things around here don't move quickly, and I also know that they are governed by longstanding traditions, but Senator Crapo and I have worked diligently to attempt to fill this seat. We have enthusiastic support from Senator Crapo and myself, and also from President Obama. **We would urge passage of this nomination as quickly as possible** and I think you'll be well pleased with Judge Nye when you hear him testify here.”... Both Crapo and Risch will continue to work with the Senate Judiciary Committee to advance Judge Nye's nomination to the full Senate for confirmation.

### **ID Sens. on district court nominee & need to create new judgeship**

(Republican - Idaho) 06/21/16

Idaho Sens. Mike Crapo and Jim Risch introduced Nye to the committee, highlighted his credentials and unanimous well-qualified rating from the American Bar Association, and urged the panel not only to swiftly approve his nomination, but also to consider their legislation to give Idaho a third federal district judgeship. “It's been a while since Idaho senators have appeared before this committee,” Crapo said, “as **Idaho is one of only three states having just two authorized district court judgeships. The nonpartisan Judicial Conference of the United States has declared a judicial emergency for Idaho and has recommended in every one of its reports to Congress since 2003 that Idaho be authorized for a third district court judgeship.** Unfortunately, the last time Congress authorized

any new judgeships, district judgeships, for any state was in 2002. So we just missed out.” “The result is that we have a three-judge caseload state being handled by two judges,” Crapo told the committee. “And since last July, when Judge (Edward) Lodge took senior status, creating the vacancy we are seeking to address today, **we have been a three caseload state being handled by only one active judge**.” “What’s even more challenging,” Crapo said, “is that our one remaining active judge, (Judge B. Lynn Winmill,) is eligible to take senior status this coming March. I look forward to working with the committee to pass the legislation that Sen. Risch and I have introduced, to authorize a third district court judgeship for Idaho, to prevent any such emergency from happening in the future. But first, I strongly encourage this committee to approve Judge Nye’s nomination as soon as possible, so that the people of Idaho can continue to be assured that they will be served by well-qualified judges.” Risch seconded that. “I know that things around here don’t move quickly, and I also know that they are governed by longstanding traditions, but Sen. Crapo and I have worked diligently to fill this seat,” he said. “As we all know, Idaho is a conservative state, and we have an administration that is not so much, and so the challenge was great. But I would say this: I would commend the White House for the way this was handled. We worked incredibly well with President Obama’s staff in the give-and-take that’s necessary to fill the spot. And we went through dozens and dozens of applicants to finally arrive at Judge Nye. And where we are right now is we have enthusiastic support from Sen. Crapo and myself and also from President Obama.”

### **Senators Crapo and Risch Introduce Judge David Nye [Video]**

(Republican - Idaho) 06/21/16

On Tuesday, June 21, Senators Crapo and Risch introduced Sixth District Judge David Nye of Pocatello, to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Judge Nye has been nominated to be Idaho’s next U.S. District Court judge.

### **ID Senators: Idaho Judicial Nominee Set for Hearing Next Week; Crapo, Risch will testify before Senate Judiciary Committee on Judge Nye**

(Republican - Idaho) 06/15/16

Idaho Senators Mike Crapo and Jim Risch have secured a hearing for their selection of a new U.S. District Judge for Idaho. The Senate Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing Tuesday, June 21, on the nomination of Idaho District Judge David C. Nye of Pocatello to be Idaho’s next U.S. District Court judge. Idaho Senators Mike Crapo and Jim Risch will introduce Judge Nye when he appears before the committee next week. “I appreciate the Judiciary Committee recognizing and responding to Senator Risch and me by holding this hearing,” Crapo said. “Judge Nye’s combined experiences as a litigator and his service to Idaho’s state courts as a district judge make him extremely well-qualified to serve Idaho as our next federal district court judge. Judge Nye’s strong record of service shows Idaho will be well served by him joining the federal bench.” “After a long and very thorough process, Senator Crapo, the Obama Administration, and I agreed on Judge Nye to be considered as the next federal district court judge in Idaho,” said Risch. “Judge Nye is a sound and principled jurist and I look forward to this next step of the process as he sits before the Judiciary Committee.”

**Sens. Crapo, Risch Begin “Twisting Arms” for Federal Judge Nominee** (Republican – Idaho) 04/12/16 Hoping to win a quick vote [on the nomination of Judge David Nye], **Risch and ... Crapo say they’ve already begun twisting arms with their colleagues**, urging them to let Nye leapfrog ahead of some of the more controversial nominees. Both senators say **they want the Senate to sign off on Nye before Congress adjourns for the year**. “It’s very clear that we are in the last quarter of this Congress and so we need to move urgently. . . . The queue can get moved around,” Crapo said. Risch said he’s “cautiously optimistic” that they’ll succeed: “ . . . We’ve already had numerous conversations.”

**Sen Crapo Statement on Federal Judge Nominee** (Republican – Idaho) 04/12/16 Crapo had high

praise for Nye. “He has a tremendous record. He has broad support for his capabilities and his judicial demeanor from the legal community,” he said. **“He has the intellectual respect and the experience that make him an outstanding nominee.”** .... As for the prospects for getting Judge Nye confirmed before the end of the year, Crapo said, “We’ve got a very intense political climate that could cause some delays. But my hope and my belief is that we should make our best argument that the judicial emergency that we face in Idaho gives us even additional strong reason for the Senate to set aside the partisanship that is now so strong, and move forward with this nomination.” “I can’t promise you that that will work out, but I can tell you that **Sen. Risch and I are very aggressively working to try to get this nomination moved.**” Crapo said. “One thing that helps us in that process, we have the White House in support of this nomination. We truly do have bipartisanship on this.”

**[Sens. Crapo, Risch “Pushing Hard” For Confirmation of Federal Judge Nominee](#)** (Republican – Idaho) 04/11/16 **Idaho’s two GOP senators ... say they’re pushing hard for [confirmation of Judge Nye] to happen this year,** despite the standoff between the White House and the Senate over the Senate’s refusal to hold hearings on President Obama’s nominee to the Supreme Court, Merrick Garland. .... Idaho **Sen. Jim Risch said he and Sen. Mike Crapo already have met with Senate Judiciary Chairman Charles Grassley about a possible hearing – even before the nomination was announced – and lunched with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell last week to press the case for confirmation.**

### **[Sens. Crapo, Risch Statement on Federal Judge Nominee](#)**

(Republican - Idaho) 04/05/16 Senators Mike Crapo and Jim Risch today announced that Idaho District Judge David C. Nye of Pocatello has been nominated by President Barack Obama to fill the open U.S. District Court judgeship in Idaho. The nomination was done after negotiations with the White House and upon the advice given by the senators from Idaho. **The senators stated that they enthusiastically seek the consent of the full Senate for confirmation.** “The nomination of Judge Nye is the result of a productive consultation process between the Idaho Senate delegation, the President and his team. Judge Nye’s combined experiences as a litigator and his service to Idaho as a district judge make him well-qualified to serve Idaho as our next federal district court judge,” said Crapo. “On top of his district court responsibilities, Judge Nye has presided over a highly successful diversionary felony drug court. He has also served Idaho’s legal community through his work on the Idaho Supreme Court felony sentencing and judicial education committees. Additionally, Judge Nye has taken on the responsibility of ensuring that all judges in Idaho are effective in their service by playing an active role in the mentoring and training of new judges throughout our state. As I have told the President, **I am committed to working diligently and enthusiastically to obtain the consent of the Senate for Judge Nye’s confirmation.**” “This has been a long and difficult process as we worked through potential candidates,” said Risch. “All applicants were considered and several vetted at various levels. The parties worked in good faith to reach an agreement. **I am happy that we have settled on a sound and principled jurist who will be an outstanding judge.**”

## **INDIANA**

### **[Sens. Coats, Donnelly Praise Senate Judiciary Committee Vote on U.S. District Court Nominee Winfield Ong](#)**

(Republican - Indiana) 06/16/16

Senators Dan Coats (R-Ind.) and Joe Donnelly (D-Ind.) today praised the Senate Judiciary Committee’s vote to approve Winfield D. Ong to fill the vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana. Ong’s nomination will now be sent to the full Senate for consideration. “I applaud the committee’s vote to approve the nomination of Winfield Ong,” said Coats. “Given the ongoing judicial emergency in the Southern District of Indiana, this vacancy needs to be filled.

Winfield Ong's qualifications and outstanding record of public service make him the right person for this important position." "I am pleased the Senate Judiciary Committee moved Winfield Ong's nomination forward to the full Senate," said Donnelly. "He is an excellent nominee and has demonstrated he has the experience, ability, and temperament necessary to serve Hoosiers well on the federal bench. I urge the Senate to hold a confirmation vote on Winfield Ong as soon as possible."

[Sens. Coats, Donnelly Express Support for U.S. District Court Nominee Winfield Ong During Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing](#)

(Republican - Indiana) 05/18/16

Senators Dan Coats (R-Ind.) and Joe Donnelly (D-Ind.) today testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee during a hearing on judicial nominations. The Indiana senators spoke in support of Winfield D. Ong, who was nominated to fill the vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana. Coats said, "Winfield's colleagues in the legal profession recommend him highly. It is clear to me that he has earned the respect of his peers. In light of Winfield Ong's qualifications, outstanding record of public service and the ongoing judicial emergency in the Southern District of Indiana, I respectfully ask that you send his nomination to the full Senate for confirmation and **trust that the Senate will act swiftly with confirmation.**"

[Sens. Donnelly and Coats Pleased Senate Judiciary Committee Will Hold Hearing on U.S. District Court Nominee Winfield Ong](#)

(Republican - Indiana) 05/16/16

Coats said, "I appreciate the Senate Judiciary Committee's decision to hold a hearing on Winfield Ong's nomination to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana. The Judicial Conference of the United States has declared a judicial emergency in Indiana's Southern District, and Winfield Ong's successful career in the U.S. Attorney's Office makes him uniquely qualified to fill this important role. This is a significant step toward confirmation, and **I am eager to see this process move forward.**"

[Sen. Coats Responds to President's Nominations for Indiana Judicial Vacancies](#)

(Republican - Indiana) 01/12/16 **Senator Dan Coats (R-Ind.) today announced that he will support the nomination of Winfield Denton Ong in order to address the pressing judicial emergency** in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana....

**"The Judicial Conference of the United States has declared a judicial emergency in Indiana's Southern District, and this important role needs to be filled quickly," said Coats.** "The role demands a sharp legal mind and a thoughtful, fair temperament. After carefully reviewing Winfield Ong's record and background and meeting with him personally, I believe he is qualified for this position."

**KANSAS**

[AP quotes Sen. Moran looking forward to supporting Senate confirmation of Campbell district court nomination](#)

(Republican - Kansas) 01/29/16 U.S. **Sen. Jerry Moran**, a Republican, in an email Friday said he **looks forward to supporting his Senate confirmation.** "Providing advice and consent for Presidential nominees is one of the most important roles of the United States Senate and a responsibility I take very seriously," Moran said. "Mr. Campbell is a respected lawyer with high qualifications that make him a strong nominee to fill the vacant federal judgeship in the District of Kansas

[AP quotes Sen. Roberts on Campbell district court nomination](#), (Republican - Kansas) 01/29/16

The state's other Republican senator, Pat Roberts, also praised the nominee but stopped short of a commitment. Roberts said in an email that the Senate Judiciary Committee will begin to examine Campbell's credentials, the first step in a thorough vetting process. "Terry Campbell enjoys a good



reputation in both the Kansas legal community and the community of Lawrence, where he has raised his family,” Roberts said.

## LOUISIANA

### [Sens. Vitter & Cassidy "strongly support" Stephanie A. Finley & Claude J. Kelly III federal district court nominees at their Senate Judiciary Committee hearing](#)

(Republican - Louisiana) 05/18/16

Sen. Vitter (chairing hearing) oral statement that Sen. Cassidy written statement "also strongly supports" both nominees for the Louisiana U.S. District Court

## NORTH DAKOTA

### [SEN. HOEVEN: JUDICIARY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS JENNIFER PUHL FOR SEAT ON 8TH U.S. CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS](#)

(Republican - North Dakota) 07/14/16

Senator John Hoeven today announced that the Senate Judiciary Committee has favorably reported out Assistant U.S. Attorney Jennifer Puhl to serve on the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals. At a committee hearing last month, Hoeven introduced Puhl to committee members and encouraged them to approve her nomination. “Jennifer Puhl is well qualified to serve on the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals, and we’re pleased that the committee has favorably reviewed her,” said Hoeven. “As an Assistant U.S. Attorney, she has focused on prosecuting crimes involving child exploitation, sex offender registration, human trafficking and crimes on the Indian reservations. Puhl has a reputation for being nonpartisan and enjoys broad support on both sides of the aisle. **I will continue to support her and work to get a full floor vote on her nomination.**”... She has served as a federal prosecutor under two North Dakota U.S. attorneys, Drew Wrigley, who was appointed by President George W. Bush, and Timothy Purdon, who was appointed by President Barack Obama. Puhl’s nomination is supported by Lt. Governor Wrigley.

### [SEN. HOEVEN INTRODUCES JENNIFER PUHL AT SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HEARING: Puhl Nominated For Seat on 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals](#)

(Republican - North Dakota) 06/21/16

Senator John Hoeven today introduced Assistant U.S. Attorney Jennifer Puhl, who has been nominated to serve on the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals, at a hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Hoeven encouraged the committee to approve Puhl’s nomination and said she is well qualified for the position. “**Jennifer Puhl is well qualified to serve on the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals, and we support her nomination,**” said Hoeven. “As an Assistant U.S. Attorney, she has focused on prosecuting crimes involving child exploitation, sex offender registration, human trafficking and crimes on the Indian reservations. Puhl has a reputation for being nonpartisan and enjoys broad support on both sides of the aisle. I encourage the committee to recommend her for confirmation to the 8th Circuit.”

### [Sen. Hoeven on Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on North Dakota Eighth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals nominee](#)

(Republican - North Dakota) 06/17/16

Jennifer Klemetsrud Puhl, a federal prosecutor who has been nominated to a seat on the federal appeals court, will appear next week before the Senate Judiciary Committee.... Both Sens. John Hoeven, R-N.D., and Heidi Heitkamp, D-N.D., support Puhl's nomination and will introduce her to the judiciary panel.... "(Hoeven) believes she's qualified and will be supporting her nomination," said the senator's spokesman, Don Canton, earlier this week.

### [Sen. Hoeven returned "blue slip" to approve hearing for ND 8th Circuit nominee](#)

(Republican - North Dakota) 03/09/16

### [Sen. Hoeven undecided on Obama's ND judicial nominee](#)

(Republican - North Dakota) 02/07/16 Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., said he has an "open mind" but is still reviewing President Obama's nomination of Jennifer Klemetsrud Puhl to the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Obama last week nominated Puhl, an assistant U.S. attorney based in Fargo .... Hoeven said he had forwarded the name of Shon Kaelberer Hastings, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court judge and a former assistant U.S. attorney in Fargo, but Obama instead chose Puhl. Nonetheless, Hoeven said, "I have an open mind." The senator said he has an appointment to meet with Puhl in North Dakota later this month. "I'll interview her and make a decision," Hoeven said. "I'll look at her record." Historically, few judicial nominees put forward in a president's eighth year win approval, Hoeven said. President George W. Bush won Senate confirmation of two judicial nominees, President Clinton one and President Reagan two, Hoeven said. "It's tough to move 'em," he said. "It's particularly tough to move them in the eighth year of a presidency."

## OHIO

### [Sens. Portman, Brown Request Applications for U.S. District Judgeship Vacancy in Ohios Southern District](#)

(Republican - Ohio) 05/03/16

Sens. Rob Portman (R-OH) and Sherrod Brown (D-OH) today began accepting applications to fill the vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio. The Honorable Gregory L. Frost retired from his position yesterday, creating the vacancy. ... "We wish Judge Frost well in his retirement, and thank him for his years of public service," said Portman. "The commission will weigh the best candidates and give Ohioans an opportunity to have input on the selection."... In the interest of identifying the best possible judicial candidates for Ohio's federal bench, Portman and Brown are working to establish a bipartisan judicial advisory commission. Members of the commission will be chosen by both senators to review applications and recommend candidates for this vacancy.

## OKLAHOMA

### [OK Sens. applaud Judiciary Committee approval of two district court nominees](#)

(Republican - Oklahoma) 05/19/16

Sens. Jim Inhofe, R-Tulsa, and James Lankford, R-Oklahoma City, applauded the committee's decision to advance the nominees. "**I am hopeful they will soon be serving the U.S. District Court** for the Western District of Oklahoma," Inhofe said Thursday. "Both have received a wide range of praise from Oklahoma leaders and their colleagues, and I fully expect both will soon continue to serve Oklahoma with honor in their new roles." Lankford said, "I'm pleased that the Senate Judiciary Committee has affirmed what Oklahomans already knew — **Judge Mitchell and Mr. Palk will be solid judges** on the U.S. District Court. I congratulate them on this important next step in the process. They are fair-minded nominees who will uphold the rule of law."

### [Sen. Lankford thinks two Oklahoma district court nominees will be confirmed by the full Senate this year.](#)

(Republican - Oklahoma) 04/20/16

Backed by both Oklahoma senators, Suzanne Mitchell and Scott Palk sailed through a hearing Wednesday before the Senate Judiciary Committee on their nominations to be federal judges for the western half of the state.... **Sen. James Lankford**, R-Oklahoma City, who introduced Mitchell and Palk to the committee on Wednesday, said later that he **thinks the two will be advanced by the committee and confirmed by the full Senate this year.**

### [Sen. Inhofe Statement for the Nomination Hearing of Mitchell, Palk to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma](#)

(Republican - Oklahoma) 04/20/16

"Chairman Lee, thank you for the opportunity to introduce my support for the two nominees from my home state of Oklahoma. Both Judge Suzanne Mitchell and Scott Palk have been nominated to fill vacancies on the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma.... Judge Mitchell is very qualified for the position of U.S. District Judge. Her experience with all aspects of the courtroom provides her with the unique perspective and skill set to be an impartial judge that upholds the rule of law. ... I have no doubt she will continue to serve Oklahoma and our nation with honor.... Former Senator and current Oklahoma University President, David Boren praised Mr. Palk by saying he'd "make an excellent judge" who would be "balanced and fair in his approach" and has "an excellent reputation for complete honesty and integrity." I think we can all agree that these are the characteristics that will serve the Western District of Oklahoma and our nation well. Mr. Chairman, I thank you for the opportunity to introduce these two great Oklahomans and voice my support for their nominations."

### [Senator Lankford Supports Oklahomans for US District Court](#)

(Republican - Oklahoma) 04/20/16

Senator James Lankford (R-OK) today appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee in support of two nominees for the US District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma, Judge Suzanne Mitchell and Scott Palk. "Suzanne's and Scott's background and work in Oklahoma make them uniquely qualified to serve our state as federal judges," said Lankford. "I believe they are devoted to public service and will uphold both the rule of law and integrity of the court. I ask my Senate colleagues to confirm their nominations." Since January 2015, Lankford worked to fill the two vacancies on the US District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma. On June 5, 2015, Lankford jointly submitted with Senator Jim Inhofe (R-OK) Palk and Mitchell to the White House for consideration and they were officially nominated by the President on December 16, 2015.

### [Oklahoma senators want state judicial nominees to advance, even if Supreme Court process stalls](#)

(Republican - Oklahoma) 02/21/16 Oklahoma's senators support the two chosen for U.S. district judgeships in Oklahoma City and want the Senate to advance the nominations. There is, they said, a huge difference between district judges and Supreme Court justices. Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Tulsa, said, "These Oklahoma judicial nominees were put forward last year, giving ample time for the individuals to be properly vetted. "Both have strong bipartisan support and should be permitted a hearing and a vote in the Senate. The Supreme Court nomination is an entirely separate situation as the balance of the highest federal court is now in play." Sen. James Lankford, R-Oklahoma City, said the White House conducted a six-month vetting process of Mitchell and Palk. "Both are fair and strong candidates for the United States District Court," he said.... Lankford said decisions about whether to advance lower court justices and Obama's nomination for the Supreme Court should be evaluated separately. "Supreme Court justices are absolutely unique," he said. "The Supreme Court vacancy is a monumental decision that will make a profound impact on the courts and many significant decisions for decades." Inhofe agreed, saying, "I believe the American people are now not only voting for a new administration but a new Supreme Court, because whoever fills this seat will greatly impact the next generation of our nation."

### [Sens. Inhofe, Lankford Announce Judicial Nominees for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma](#)

(R-OK) 12/16/15 "I'm pleased that the White House has nominated Judge Suzanne Mitchell and Scott Palk to the U.S. Federal Court for the Western District, and I congratulate both nominees," Inhofe said. "**This nomination process for these seats has**

been unnecessarily long, and so I am pleased it has come to a conclusion with two very capable nominees. **I fully support their nominations** because they have distinguished service in the public sector, valuable private sector experience, and the temperament to serve the state, the interest of justice, and the parties who appear in their courts.” “Both Judge Mitchell and Scott Palk are impressive nominees for the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma,” Lankford said. **“We look forward to their nomination hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee and confirmation by the full Senate.** Though I have had many disagreements with the White House, we agree that Judge Mitchell and Scott Palk are fair-minded and will uphold the strict rule of law. I am confident they will serve our state and nation well.”

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

### **Sen. Toomey on Baxter and Horan judicial nominations**

(Republican - Pennsylvania) 07/14/16

Sen. Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania, who is locked in one of the most competitive Senate races nationwide, said he is pushing his own leadership to act on the two district court judges from his state currently idling on the Senate floor for a vote. ... After a protracted scuffle over confirming Luis Restrepo to the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, Toomey is back in another push over judicial nominees, lobbying for swift confirmation of Susan Baxter and Marilyn Horan to the Western District of Pennsylvania. ... in Washington, Toomey is using parliamentary tactics to try and tee up confirmation votes for Baxter and Horan, whose nominations have lingered on the Senate floor since January. “I went down and asked unanimous consent to bring them up because the vacancies have been the longest,” the Pennsylvania Republican said. “I’ve been consistently pushing for this. I’m pushing the committee; I’m glad that they were reported out of committee successfully. One’s a Democrat, the other’s a Republican, so I’m hoping that we’ll be able to get that done.”

### **Sen. Toomey seeks Senate unanimous consent for Floor votes on judicial nominees**

(Republican - Pennsylvania) 05/11/16

"For some time, Senator Casey and I have been working to get all four of these nominees through the process and confirmed, and I strongly believe all four should be confirmed.... **the Federal courthouse in Erie, PA--the fourth biggest city in Pennsylvania--has a vacant courthouse. ... For almost 3 years, there has been no Federal judge able to hear cases, and so the people in Erie and the surrounding counties have very long travel distances.**... There is no question in my mind, both of these women will make outstanding additions to the Federal bench in Pennsylvania. I believe the seats they will fill, if they are confirmed by the Senate, have been vacant too long. **Three years is just far too long.** Yesterday my colleague from Pennsylvania, **Senator Casey, made a unanimous consent request for these 2 Pennsylvania judges but also 9 others, for a total of 11. I was not on the Senate floor at the time. Had I been, I would have voiced my support for that request, and I would have agreed to that vote. Unfortunately, Leader McConnell disagreed and raised an objection.** ... I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 460 and 461.... we have excellent candidates who have been vetted by both sides. They have been chosen by both sides. They have come through the process. They have had their hearings. They have been reported out by the committee. **It does not serve the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to have to continue to wait.**"

### **Sen. Toomey urges Judiciary Committee Chairman Grassley to hold vote on two Pennsylvania district court nominees**

(Republican - Pennsylvania) 02/25/16 Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pennsylvania, has asked for the approval of two federal district court nominees who had been held over from the last committee vote. In a letter to Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, **Toomey implored committee members to "honor the bipartisan tradition" he and**

his Democratic counterpart, Sen. Bob Casey, had established in nominating judges. ... "To date, these nominations unfortunately still remain pending before your committee, and **I want to again urge you to bring these nominees up for a vote and favorably report them for consideration by the full Senate,**" Toomey wrote.

**Sen. Toomey on Judiciary Committee approval of two PA district court nominees and delay of two others** (Republican - Pennsylvania) 01/29/16 Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pennsylvania, also said he was glad for Baxter and Horan's approval in the committee, adding, "**I hope the Judiciary Committee also will approve Judge Robert J. Colville to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania and Judge John M. Younger to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.**"

**Sen. Toomey Floor Statement [on Judge Restrepo and other Judicial Nominees and Vacancies]** (Republican - Pennsylvania) 01/11/16 "Senator Casey and I have been working very closely for 5 years now, since I joined the Senate, working to fill the vacancies that occur on the Federal bench across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that we represent. With Judge Restrepo's confirmation tonight, which I am hopeful and confident will occur [it did occur], Senator Casey and I will have been able to play a role in filling 16 vacancies on the Federal bench, including 14 district court vacancies that have occurred since the time I arrived in Senate and two Third Circuit court vacancies....Because we have worked closely together, not only have we filled these vacancies, but we have filled courthouses--Federal courthouses meant to house Federal judges--that have been vacant for years.... **I think, and I hope, we are close to filling an empty courthouse in Erie, PA. Erie is kind of by itself out there in the northwest corner of our great State, and there ought to be Federal judge in the Erie courthouse. We are well in the process of making sure that there will be, and I am sure it will come to a close soon.**"

**Sen. Toomey: Bipartisan cooperation on judicial appointments: Sen. Casey and I, along with the White House, have worked on a bipartisan basis to fill judicial vacancies.**

(Republican - Pennsylvania) 12/22/15 "When vacancies occur in the district courts, Sen. Casey and I vet and recommend candidates whom the president will then typically nominate. .... [On December 9, 2015], four federal district judge nominees for Pennsylvania – including one to fill the vacant courthouse in Erie – received a hearing at the Senate Judiciary Committee and are one step closer to getting confirmed. **If all five of these nominations [including one for the Third Circuit, since confirmed] are approved by the Senate, and I am confident they will be,** Sen. Casey and I will have worked together to confirm a total of 20 judges to Pennsylvania's federal courts – significant progress for our state."

**Sen. Toomey looks forward to "prompt confirmation" of four Pennsylvania judicial nominees**

(Republican - Pennsylvania) 12/09/15 "The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday held a hearing to consider nominations for four Pennsylvania judicial candidates selected by President Obama to fill seats on the federal bench.... Toomey echoed Casey's sentiments and touted that since he has been working with Casey over the last five years, "we have been able to fill 15 vacancies on the bench in Pennsylvania." He added, "**I'm particularly looking forward to a prompt confirmation for these four nominees.**"

**[Sen. Toomey] Casey, Toomey Statements on Confirmation Hearing for Four Candidates to U.S. District Courts of Pennsylvania** (Republican - Pennsylvania) 12/09/15

"I was pleased to speak on behalf of Judge Susan P. Baxter, Judge Robert J. Colville, Judge Marilyn J. Horan, and Judge John M. Younger at today's hearing," said Sen. Toomey. "These nominees possess a wealth of legal experience from their work in both the public and private sectors. I am confident that they have the acumen, integrity, and respect for the limited role of the judiciary that they need to excel as federal

judges. As we have done over the years, **I look forward to working with Sen. Casey on a bipartisan basis to have these outstanding nominees confirmed** by the Senate."

**Toomey moves to fill 3 vacancies for [WD of PA] federal judge** (Republican - Pennsylvania)

12/02/15 The Senate Judiciary Committee plans to hold confirmation hearings Dec. 9 for three people the president nominated in July as federal judges in Pittsburgh and Erie. Their hearings were on hold because Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Lehigh Valley, hadn't sent the committee "blue slips" indicating whether he approved of the nominations. The senator was waiting for the committee to finish background investigations on the nominees, said Toomey spokeswoman E.R. Anderson. She said Toomey "has spoken directly with Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to **emphasize the importance of getting these judges confirmed as soon as possible.**"

**Sen. Toomey on blue slip to allow hearing for judicial nominee he recommended**

(Republican - Pennsylvania) 11/11/15 U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey's office is saying that he is not holding up the nomination to the federal court of Butler County Judge Marilyn Horan. Horan in July was nominated by President Barack Obama to take a vacancy on the federal bench in Pittsburgh. Once the president nominates a candidate, the Senate Judiciary Committee begins to do background investigations on that person. The investigation has begun, but Toomey has not submitted a "blue slip," which is a blue sheet of paper that shows a senator's support for the nominee. In this case, that is Horan. Before the Judiciary Committee forwards any nomination to be voted on the senate floor, it needs blue slips from both senators from the nominee's home state. ... Horan will not have to be renominated until the end of 2016, and Toomey's office is confident that the background work will be done before then. A statement provided by **Toomey restated his support for Horan and said he "remains fully committed to getting her confirmed as soon as possible."**

**Sen. Toomey on filling judicial vacancies** (Republican - Pennsylvania) 09/14/15 "And I will say I also work closely with Senator Casey whenever I can," Toomey stated. "And one of the areas we work closely together regularly is filling vacancies on the federal bench. The fact is in the four and a half or so years since I have been in the Senate we have been able to recruit, vet, nominate, and confirm, fifteen men and women to the federal bench across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. And, in that period of time, only California and New York can match or exceed those numbers."

**[Sen. Toomey] Casey, Toomey Applaud Nomination of Four Candidates to U.S. District Courts of Pennsylvania** (Republican - Pennsylvania) 07/30/15

"I am pleased that President Obama will nominate Judge Susan P. Baxter, Judge Robert J. Colville, Judge Marilyn J. Horan, and Judge John M. Younge to serve on the federal district court in Pennsylvania," said Senator Toomey. "These nominees possess a wealth of legal experience from their work in both the public and private sectors. **I am confident that they have the acumen, integrity, and respect for the limited role of the judiciary that they need to excel as federal judges.** Moreover, today is **especially good news for Erie since the city's federal courthouse will have a sitting judge for the first time in 2 years.** As we have done over the years, **I look forward to working with Senator Casey on a bipartisan basis to have these outstanding nominees confirmed** by the Senate."

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

**Sens. Tim Scott & Lindsey Graham at Judiciary Committee hearing on South Carolina district court nominee**

(Republican - South Carolina) 06/21/16

**Sen. Scott: "I offer my endorsement of Mr. Coggins** because we need qualified judges in our federal system and in my home state of South Carolina and Mr. Coggins certainly fits the bill.... and the American Bar Association has rated him unanimously well qualified for this position. It is my privilege

today to endorse Mr. Coggins before this Committee." **Sen. Graham:** "I'd like to associate myself with those comments of Sen. Scott. We've got a good nominee on our hands here. ..." [and at end of hearing he chaired] **"I will do everything I can to move you through the process quickly because we need more judges but more importantly we need good judges, and I think you will fit that bill."**

### **Sen. Lindsey Graham on Judicial Nominees**

(Republican - South Carolina) 03/15/16 Republican senators expressed hope that more judges will be confirmed this year. "Some of them will get through," said South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee who is supporting a judge nominee from his state. "We're very close."

### **Sen. Lindsey Graham and Obama nomination of Beatty, Coggins for federal judgeships**

(Republican - South Carolina) 02/25/16

The nominations are the result of an agreement between Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who is backing Coggins, and Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., who is backing Beatty

## **TENNESSEE**

### **TN Sens. quoted after Republicans delay vote on Memphis judicial nominee's confirmation**

(Republican - Tennessee) 04/26/16

After Senate Republicans refused to let Obama's judicial nominees go forward on Tuesday, both Corker and Alexander reiterated their support for Stanton. "While Senator Corker does not control the floor schedule and which judicial nominees are brought up for confirmation, he remains supportive of Mr. Stanton," Corker's office said. "The senator, who is not a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, introduced Mr. Stanton to the committee when it met to consider his nomination last September and has encouraged his colleagues to support his confirmation." Alexander's office also noted that he told the Judiciary Committee that Tennessee "is fortunate to have such a well-qualified nominee" and that he would vote to confirm Stanton "if Majority Leader McConnell brings him to the floor for a vote."

### **Sens. Alexander & Corker reaffirm support for confirming 2 TN district court nominees**

(Republican - Tennessee) 03/08/16 "[In addition to Waverly Crenshaw, confirmed April 11, 2016, Sens. Alexander and Corker] have another district court nominee, Edward Stanton, who's been waiting for a confirmation vote since October. A Corker spokeswoman said he ... "remains supportive of Mr. Crenshaw and Mr. Stanton.""

### **Sens. Corker & Alexander on three pending TN federal judicial nominees**

(Republican - Tennessee) 09/30/15 Alexander said all three Tennessee nominees [including Stanton] are well qualified. **"We'll do everything we can to urge the Senate to confirm them this year, if possible,"** Alexander said. "These three aren't controversial so I see no reason why they shouldn't move through."

### **SEN. CORKER INTRODUCES STANTON AT SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE NOMINATION HEARING: hopes Stanton will be confirmed as judge "very, very soon"**

(Republican - Tennessee) 09/30/15 "It's my pleasure to introduce Edward Stanton III, nominee for the U.S. District Court Judge for the Western District of Tennessee. ... **I hope that he will be confirmed very, very soon.**"

### **Sen. Alexander: Lifelong Memphian Ed Stanton Is "Fair, Impartial...a Rising Star"**

(Republican - Tennessee) 09/30/15 "People who know Memphis know that for some time now Ed Stanton has been considered to be a rising star. Ed is a lifelong Memphian with solid legal experience that spans both the public and private sectors, and I know he'll do his best to serve West Tennesseans

in a fair and impartial manner. **I urge the committee to support his nomination and the Senate to speedily confirm him.**”

## **TEXAS**

### **SEN. CRUZ COMMENDS FIVE TEXAS FEDERAL JUDICIAL NOMINEES AT HEARING**

(Republican - Texas) 09/08/16

“As many of the people in this hearing know, Sen. Cornyn and I four years ago created a bipartisan federal judicial advisory committee consisting of esteemed members of the Bar throughout the State of Texas,” Sen. Cruz said in his opening statement. “It is bipartisan. It includes leaders in every region of the state to make recommendations on judicial appointments, and each of the five nominees who is sitting before us is a product of that process. “Each of you has been through vigorous interviews, has been through the scrutiny of your colleagues and the scrutiny of your peers. It is designed to be an exacting process, but it is also designed to be a process that helps the cream rise to the top and helps produce nominees who will be the very best at what they do at the bench, who will be learned in the law, who will be faithful to the law and faithful to the Constitution, and who will bring honor to the judiciary and uphold the integrity of our courts. So I congratulate each of the five of you for making it through the process with such flying colors.”

### **Sen. Cornyn Chairs Hearing for Texas Judicial Nominees**

(Republican - Texas) 09/07/16

Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) chaired a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing for five nominees to fill vacancies on federal courts in Texas.... “Each of these nominees meet these exacting standards: they bring to the bench decades of public service and private sector experience in civil and criminal law, in the courtroom and in our appellate courts. And together they represent the richness and diversity that makes Texas so proud.” “I want to congratulate each one of you for getting this far in the process. As I said, it’s not an easy one. I’m sure you would agree. And I again want to thank Chairman Grassley for scheduling the hearing. I know it’s rare to hold a nominations hearing this late in a presidential election year.” “I want to extend a welcome to all of your families who are with you and to congratulate them because I know this is not an honor for you alone. It is for your families and the people who helped you get to this point.”

### **Sen. Cornyn on need to confirm judges, hope for vote before recess**

(Republican - Texas) 09/07/16

Cornyn, who is the Senate majority whip, alluded in the hearing to the urgency of filling judicial nominations in Texas: “I know it’s rare to hold a nominations hearing this late in a presidential election year.” Cornyn, addressing the five nominees, said, “I feel like I know everyone well.” ... After he left the hearing, leaving Cruz to preside for the last few minutes, Cornyn told McClatchy that having a hearing so close to an election is “almost unheard-of.” “We do need to have judges confirmed,” he said. “There’s definitely a need. I’m glad this day has arrived.” Cornyn anticipates that the Senate Judiciary Committee will vote on the nominees in the next two weeks, and he hopes that the full Senate will vote shortly thereafter, before Congress recesses for the elections.

### **Sen. Cornyn Announces Hearing Next Week for Texas Judicial Nominees**

(Republican - Texas) 09/01/16

Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) announced that he will Chair a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing next week for five nominees to fill vacancies on federal courts in Texas. The nominees were nominated earlier this year after being recommended by Senators Cornyn and Cruz to the President. “The powerful responsibility of our judicial system demands, and Texans deserve, impartial jurists of the highest caliber,” said Sen. Cornyn. “I was proud to recommend each of these well-qualified candidates



to the President, and I'm looking forward to hearing from each of them next week." Each of these nominees was recommended to the White House after being screened by the bipartisan Federal Judicial Evaluation Committee (FJEC). Senators Cornyn and Cruz established this panel of leading attorneys in Texas to help identify the most qualified candidates to fill judicial vacancies.

### **Sen. Cornyn Pledges to Help Obama Seat Texas Judges**

(Republican - Texas) 03/22/16 "This disagreement over the Supreme Court is not going to stop my commitment to work across the aisle to help Texas and Texans. And to that end, we've been working with White House on five judicial nominations," Cornyn said.... "I was able to speak with each of these nominees and congratulate them ..." Cornyn said. "And my main goal in all of this is to make sure that we get the best and brightest legal minds on the bench that are not partisans, but are people we can be proud of and who are well-qualified. So I look forward to assisting those nominations going forward."

### **Sen. Cornyn quoted in POLITICO on judicial vacancies**

(Republican - Texas) 02/28/16 John Cornyn, the second-ranking Senate Republican and a former Texas Supreme Court judge, was attending Justice Antonin Scalia's funeral this month when he found himself chatting with White House counsel Neil Eggleston. The topic: their mutual interest in confirming judges to lifetime appointments to the federal bench.... "I don't think the situation with regard to Justice Scalia's vacancy is going to have any impact on those other appointments. We'll be processing those," Cornyn told POLITICO. "The fight is about [the Supreme Court], it's not about nominations in general."... The conversation between Cornyn and Eggleston centered around the senator's home state of Texas, where seven of the country's 31 judicial "emergencies" — openings deemed especially pressing because of heavy caseloads and under-staffed benches — are located. Filling those courts would require some new nominees to be put forward this year.

### **POLITICO quotes Sen. Cornyn on judicial nominees**

(Republican - Texas) 01/11/16 Beyond the four already slated for votes, Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn (R-Texas) said the nominee pipeline isn't quite entirely closed. "There is a point at which, traditionally, no additional judicial nominees are considered until the election," Cornyn said. "There's no formal rule or plan to my knowledge" to begin a cutoff now.

### **Sen. John Cornyn responds to editorial**

(Republican - Texas) 10/05/15 "Re: "Senators Dragging Feet — Cornyn, Cruz must step up pace on bench vacancies," Tuesday Editorials. The editorial addressing federal judicial vacancies in Texas glossed over the bipartisan work being done on this important issue....I have been working with the Obama administration to ensure vacancies are filled as soon as they arise."

### **Cornyn: We're filling judge seats**

(Republican - Texas) 09/24/15 "I have been working with the Obama administration to fill these critical vacancies. Since President Obama took office, he has nominated and the Senate has confirmed 12 consensus nominees to fill judicial vacancies in Texas – six in the last year alone.... I was proud to recommend all of them and I'm working on more to come."

## **UTAH**

### **Sen. Hatch on Ron Russell judicial nomination**

(Republican - Utah) 07/14/16

Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, the most senior Republican in the chamber, has his own judicial nominee he wants cleared soon.... Hatch, himself a former chairman of the Judiciary Committee, has his own pick in mind: Ron Russell, a shareholder at a Salt Lake City law firm who was nominated by Obama for the District of Utah in December. Russell is also strongly backed by fellow Utah Republican Sen. Mike

Lee. "We'd sure like to have that happen because he's a very fine man and bipartisan," Hatch said of Russell. "I think the district court judges have a better chance of coming forward. We'll see what we can do." **The senior Utah senator said he is bending McConnell's ear, trying to secure a confirmation vote for Russell.** But McConnell has been noncommittal to Hatch, simply responding: "We'll see," according to the senator's retelling

#### **Sen. Hatch Statement on Utah Ron Russell's Committee Approval to District Court Seat** (Republican - Utah) 05/19/16

On Thursday, the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously approved the nomination of Ronald Russell to the U.S. District Court for the District of Utah. Senator Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, a senior member and former Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, had introduced Russell to the committee in April and issued the following statement following his approval: "Even in this challenging political environment, senators on both sides of the aisle recognized that Ron's experience, reputation, and character make him a nominee everyone can support. Ron is well known and well respected in the Utah legal community and **will continue the tradition of excellence on the U.S. District Court in Utah.**"

#### **Sen. Lee on Judiciary Committee voice vote of Utah district court nominee** (Republican - Utah) 05/19/16

"Ron is an outstanding attorney and an upstanding Utahn through and through," Lee said at Thursday's committee meeting.

#### **Sens. Hatch, Lee want quick vote on Utah judicial pick** (Republican - Utah) 04/20/16

Sens. Mike Lee and Orrin Hatch lauded a Utah judicial nominee on Wednesday and called for a quick vote to confirm Ronald G. Russell ... Lee and Hatch both support Russell, whom President Barack Obama nominated in December, and said during a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on Wednesday that he would be an excellent judge on the U.S. District Court for Utah. "In Ron Russell, I found not only a man with an outstanding resume, but also an upstanding servant of his community," Hatch said. "As such, I was honored to recommend Ron for appointment, and now **I urge my colleagues to approve Ron's nomination promptly.**" ... "This is a good day for the state of Utah and a good day for the federal judiciary," Lee said.

#### **Sen. Hatch Introduces Utah District Court Nominee Ronald Russell in Judiciary Committee** (Republican - Utah) 04/20/16

On Wednesday, the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing to consider nominations for lifetime appointments to the federal judiciary. Senator Orrin Hatch, the former chairman and longest-serving current member of the Committee, introduced Ronald G. Russell, the nominee to the U.S. District Court for the District of Utah. "I have participated in the appointment of nearly three-quarters of the judges who have served on Utah's federal district court," Hatch said. "When selecting a candidate to recommend for nomination, I consider not only the individual's credentials that can be put on paper, but also his reputation and the impressions I draw from extensive interviews. In Ron Russell, I found not only a man with an outstanding resume, but also an upstanding servant of his community. As such, I was honored to recommend Ron for appointment, and now **I urge my colleagues to approve Ron's nomination promptly.**"

#### **Sen. Hatch Applauds Nomination of Ronald G. Russell to U.S. District Court** (R-UT) 12/17/15

U.S. Senator Orrin G. Hatch (R-Utah), a senior member and former Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, joined with Senator Mike Lee (R-Utah) in recommending Russell's nomination to the President and applauded the announcement. "**I'm extraordinarily pleased** that the President has nominated Ron Russell to join the federal bench in Utah," Hatch said. "Ron possesses a broad range

of experience—from private practice to local government to a clerkship on the very court to which he has been nominated—that have made him a widely respected member of the bar. I am confident that Ron will make an excellent jurist, and **I will work to help ensure his timely confirmation by the Senate.**... Russell has been nominated to a seat that has been vacant since September 1, 2014, when Judge Brian Stewart took senior status. Over his 39 years of service in the United States Senate, **Sen. Hatch has been involved in the confirmation of 72% of the judges who have ever served on Utah's federal district court, three-quarters of which have been confirmed unanimously.**

**Sen. Lee looks forward to "speedy confirmation" of Ronald G. Russell district court nomination** (R-UT) 12/16/15 Utah Sens. Orrin Hatch and Mike Lee recommended Russell....Lee added his strong endorsement: "This is a good day for the federal judiciary and for Utah. Ron is an extraordinary talent, and **I look forward to a speedy confirmation** so that he can get to work."

## **WISCONSIN**

### **Sen. Ron Johnson on Donald Schott 7th Circuit nomination**

(Republican - Wisconsin) 07/14/16

The nomination had been holed up in the Senate Judiciary Committee until it passed out of that panel last month -- which came after Johnson blessed the move. Johnson spokesman Patrick McIlheran said with that step, Johnson "proactively moved the nomination forward" and showed he supports it. "He has taken absolutely no steps to block it," McIlheran said.

### **Sen. Ron Johnson on Judiciary Committee approval of Seventh Circuit nominee Don Schott**

(Republican - Wisconsin) 06/16/16

President Obama nominated Schott in January after he received a majority vote from a special panel established by Wisconsin Sens. Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin. Johnson objected to Obama's first 7th Circuit nominee in 2010, but earlier this year, he cleared the way for Schott's nomination to proceed. "I signed the blue slip recommending that the Judiciary Committee consider the nomination of Don Schott, which it reported out favorably today," Johnson said Thursday. "I congratulate Mr. Schott on his nomination's progress."

### **Sen. Ron Johnson on Senate Judiciary Committee May 18th hearing on Donald Schott 7th Circuit nomination**

(Republican - Wisconsin) 05/12/16

"I signed the blue slip for Don Schott, recommending that the Judiciary Committee consider the nomination, which they are now doing," Johnson said via email

### **[Sen. Ron] Johnson Won't Block Obama Appeals Court Nominee**

(Republican - Wisconsin) 03/14/16 "Republican U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson says he will allow an appointment to Wisconsin's Federal Court of Appeals to move forward ... President Barack Obama nominated Madison attorney Donald K. Schott to Chicago's 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in January to fill the longest-standing federal appeals court vacancy in the country. ... Senate rules give Johnson the power to effectively veto Schott's nomination, but late last week, Johnson gave his OK. He was asked whether Republican senators would be moving forward with other judicial nominations while they continue to block any U.S. Supreme Court nominee. "All I can do is my part," Johnson said. "I think I've demonstrated a very bipartisan approach.""

### **Sen. Johnson: Cooperation only goes so far with Sen. Tammy Baldwin**

(Republican - Wisconsin) 03/11/16 "The White House waited eight months, until Jan. 12, 2016, to nominate Don Schott. By all accounts, Schott is a well-respected and well-qualified attorney — but with no experience as a judge. He has made political contributions to Feingold and Baldwin and to Obama. I have interviewed Schott and reviewed his FBI file. He comes highly recommended as a

person of integrity, and I have "signed the blue slip" to recommend that the Judiciary Committee consider him. Baldwin's partisan decision to blow up our bipartisan process, and the White House's foot-dragging have put Schott's nomination in jeopardy. Throw in the politics that have unnecessarily erupted over the Supreme Court vacancy, and the outcome is impossible to predict. I also have recommended to the White House that Obama should nominate the other qualified candidate, Richard Sankovitz, to fill the vacancy that recently opened on the Eastern District Court. I sincerely hope the president accepts my recommendation. I do not control the process for either the appeals court or Supreme Court vacancies. Those decisions are under the jurisdiction of the Senate Judiciary Committee."

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