

**Prepared Statement by Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee**

**Hearing on the Nominations of:**

**Dale A. Drozd, to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California**

**Ann Donnelly, to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York**

**Lawrence J. Vilardo, to be a United States District Judge for the Western District of New York**

**LeShann DeArcy Hall, to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York**

**Wednesday, May 06, 2015**

I'd like to welcome the nominees to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Being nominated to the federal judiciary is a significant accomplishment and reflects well on the career of each of the nominees. This a proud moment for you and your families. Congratulations on your nominations.

Today's hearing is the 5th nominations hearing this year during which we will have considered a total of 14 nominees (4 executive and 10 judicial nominees). This total includes hearings for both the Attorney General and the Deputy Attorney General. Under the Leahy standard set in 2007, this Committee, at the same point in the year, held only 4 nominations hearings for a total of 13 nominees. So far this year, we have exceeded the standard set by then-Chairman Leahy in 2007. And regarding circuit court nominations, I would note that at this point in 2007, under the Leahy standard, the Committee had held a hearing for one circuit court nomination. Thus far in the 114th Congress, we have followed the Leahy standard and held a hearing and processed out of committee one circuit court nominee, Kara Stoll.

Regarding floor activity, there has been some confusion about the record from 2006 and 2007. At the end of 2006, during Bush's presidency, 13 district court judges who were already voted out of committee and awaiting consideration on the Senate floor were returned to the President. Those nominees were then re-submitted to the Senate in January of 2007, and processed in the new Congress. So, that's why the Senate had considered the number that it had by this point in 2007. This is the standard practice. And that practice is typically followed so that newly elected members have an opportunity for their voices to be heard.

Now, contrast that to what happened last November and December. The Democrats, without regard for Senate history or practice, rammed through 11 federal judges during the lame duck who, under regular order, should have been considered this Congress, just like was done in 2007. Had the historical practice been followed, we'd have about the same number of confirmations by now.

Overall, the Senate has confirmed 309 of President Obama's judicial nominees. At the same point in his presidency, President Bush only had 274 judicial nominees confirmed. So I will again point out that President Obama is doing significantly better in terms of judicial confirmations than President Bush was at this point in his presidency.