

**Prepared Statement by Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
Executive Business Meeting
November 5, 2015**

Good morning.

Today we have five judicial nominees to be District Judges on the agenda.

They are:

- Rebecca Ebinger, for the Southern District of Iowa
- Len Strand, for the District of Northern Iowa
- Julien Neals, for the District of New Jersey
- Gary Brown, for the Eastern District of New York
- Mark Young, for the Central District of California

I'm particularly pleased that Judge Ebinger and Judge Strand are before the Committee today. As I said during their Nominations hearing, these nominees are two of the best judicial candidates the President has nominated during his Presidency. And they'll serve the state of Iowa with honor and distinction.

These two Iowa nominees are the product of a thorough and careful vetting process. To fill the two judicial vacancies in Iowa, I set up a Judicial Selection Commission and invited all interested Iowa lawyers to apply. The applications were then reviewed by highly qualified members of the Iowa legal community.

After spending hundreds of hours reviewing the applications, the Commission interviewed the 39 Iowans who submitted their applications. Eleven candidates were then selected for a lengthy second round of interviews.

At the end of the process, the Commission sent their recommendations to me. In consultation with Senator Ernst, I was proud to recommend Judges Strand and Ebinger to the White House and urge my colleagues to vote their nomination out of Committee today.

I'd briefly note that the Committee has reviewed the updated information we received last week regarding Mr. Neals' nomination. At this point, we're comfortable moving him out of Committee.