

Responses of Ronnie Abrams
Nominee to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York
to the Written Questions of Senator Amy Klobuchar

- 1. If you had to describe it, how would you characterize your judicial philosophy? How do you see the role of the judge in our constitutional system?**

Response: In my view, the role a district judge plays is a very important but limited one. That role is to decide the case or controversy before the court based on the facts before the court and the law as determined by the decisions of the United States Supreme Court and Court of Appeals for the circuit in which the court sits.

- 2. What assurances can you give that litigants coming into your courtroom will be treated fairly regardless of their political beliefs or whether they are rich or poor, defendant or plaintiff?**

Response: All parties are entitled to equal justice under the law, regardless of their economic status, political beliefs, or social status. I believe that my career in the law – in which I have represented both the federal government and defendants in criminal cases, as well as plaintiffs and defendants in civil cases, ranging from large corporations to individuals seeking to enforce their rights – demonstrates my firm commitment to that principle. Throughout my career, including as a federal prosecutor and pro bono attorney, I have endeavored to treat everyone fairly, and with dignity and respect, and if confirmed as a district judge, I would be faithful to the judicial oath and continue to do so.

- 3. In your opinion, how strongly should judges bind themselves to the doctrine of stare decisis? How does the commitment to stare decisis vary depending on the court?**

Response: The doctrine of stare decisis applies to all courts and if confirmed as a district judge, I would firmly adhere to the doctrine.