

Responses of Matthew W. Brann
Nominee to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania
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: I would characterize my judicial philosophy as a strong belief in and commitment to the rule of law. The role of a United States district judge in our constitutional system is to listen to the facts of the case at bar, apply the Federal Rules of Evidence to the admission or exclusion of evidence and testimony, and then interpret and apply all governing law. This law may be constitutional or statutory. The law should be applied with impartiality and a decision rendered diligently.

- 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: The rule of law as it has developed in our constitutional system presumes both impartiality and neutrality. All litigants before the court should expect and should receive fair treatment. If confirmed, I will take an oath of office which requires that I act in a fair and impartial manner towards all litigants. Moreover, my legal career has been spent representing individuals from all walks of life, whom I have treated with dignity and respect, and without regard to their social standing in the community or their political views.

- 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 exists to ensure stability and predictability in the development of the law. As a prospective United States district judge, I am committed to honoring this doctrine and would strictly follow the controlling precedents established by the Third Circuit and the Supreme Court of the United States.