

Responses of Margo Kitsy Brodie
Nominee to be United States District Judge for the Eastern 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: My judicial philosophy is that a district court judge plays a very narrow, albeit important, role in our federal court system. That role is to decide the case or controversy before the court, based on the facts before the court and the decisions of the United States Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals for the circuit in which the court sits. If confirmed, I would endeavor to fulfill that role.

- 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: I firmly believe that everyone is entitled to equal justice under the law, without regard to political belief, economic status and social status. Throughout my legal career I have demonstrated my commitment to this principle and, in particular, have done so over the past 12 years as a federal prosecutor. If confirmed, I will continue to practice this principle by ensuring the fair, equal and courteous treatment of the parties and all who come in contact with the court.

- 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: In my opinion, all judges are bound by the doctrine of *stare decisis*. District court judges are bound by the decisions of the United States Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals for the circuit in which they sit.