

Responses of Nannette Jolivette Brown
Nominee to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana
to the Written Questions Senator Amy Klobuchar

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

Response: I would characterize my judicial philosophy and the role of the judge in our constitutional system as founded on three principals: stability, predictability and civility. To that end, if confirmed, I would listen to every party fairly and objectively and treat them with respect and dignity; decide only the issues properly before me; adhere to the rule of law and precedence; and preside over every matter with calm, even temperament.

- 2. As the one undemocratic branch, the courts have a special responsibility to make sure they are available to those Americans most in need of the courts to protect their rights. 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: If confirmed, I will be bound by precedent. I will treat everyone appearing before me with dignity, respect and objectivity and only decide issues properly before me and preside over every case with calm, even temperament. As evidence of my ability to be fair and objective, and my commitment to the rule of law, I have been an advocate at different times in my career, for widely different interests. I have represented people with differing political beliefs and from varying walks of life. I have always provided an unwavering commitment to my clients' interests whether their positions were popular or not, and despite opposite public opinion or political pressure to do otherwise, in some instances.

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

Response: I believe judges should be strongly bound to the doctrine of stare decisis. The commitment to stare decisis should not vary depending on the court because this principle is intended to provide predictability, stability and well-reasoned opinions within our judicial system.