

**Responses of Dana L. Christensen
Nominee to be United States District Judge for the District of Montana
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 judge has an absolute responsibility to adhere to the rule of law and follow judicial precedent, irrespective of one's personal beliefs. A judge should also possess personal humility, and exercise judicial humility in deciding only the narrow issue that is before the court, and by deferring to the legislative and executive branches of the government.

- 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 assure you that all litigants, regardless of their station in life, will be treated fairly and impartially in my court if I am confirmed by the United States Senate and sworn-in as a judge. A judge must approach all cases with an open mind, with respect to the parties and their counsel, and to not decide matters until he or she has a complete record, and given the parties and their attorneys a full and complete opportunity to be heard.

- 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: I believe it is the solemn duty of a judge to apply the law as it has been set forth in the United States Constitution, in statutes or in legal precedents, and to be bound by the doctrine of stare decisis. This duty and commitment does not vary depending on the court.