

Responses of Paul William Grimm
Nominee to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland
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 trial judge must have personal and judicial integrity; display impartiality and fairness, humility, professionalism, and courtesy toward lawyers and parties; and have a willingness to work hard and efficiently. A judge demonstrates these attributes by carefully managing his or her docket, expeditiously ruling on motions, and deciding all cases impartially based on the established facts and controlling law. A judge's role in our constitutional system is a limited one. It is to find the facts impartially and expeditiously and to apply the existing law faithfully, as established by the Supreme Court and applicable Circuit Court authority, while focusing solely on the issues properly before the court.

- 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: As I have done for more than fifteen years as a United States Magistrate Judge, I can provide my absolute assurance that in the courtroom and in my written orders resolving matters without trial, all parties will be treated fairly, regardless of political affiliation, economic status, or belief, and without regard to whether they are a plaintiff or defendant.

- 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: Judges should adhere strictly to the doctrine of stare decisis, which is a bedrock of our judicial system. The doctrine ensures that cases are decided consistent with established law and guards against arbitrary decisions. Adherence to the doctrine of stare decisis is one important means by which judges properly perform their limited role in our constitutional system. It also promotes public perception that our judicial system is impartial because cases with similar facts have similar outcomes. All District and Circuit Courts are bound to adhere to principles of stare decisis.