

Responses of Gina M. Groh
Nominee to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of West Virginia
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 must be fair, even tempered, courteous and respectful to all parties and require that all parties treat each other and the court with the same respect and courtesy. A judge must also render timely decisions and work hard to keep her docket up to date and to keep herself apprised of current law. The role of a judge in our constitutional system is not to be a judicial activist or interject her personal views into her decisions. A judge must listen attentively to all of the evidence in a case with an open mind and render a fair and impartial decision based solely on the facts and applicable legal precedent.

- 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 a state court judge for nearly five years and a prosecutor before that, I earned a reputation for treating all litigants who come into the courtroom fairly and equally, regardless of their political beliefs, economic status, race, ethnicity or status as a defendant or plaintiff. I have never decided a case for or against a party or attorney as individuals, but decide every case solely upon the facts and the applicable law. If confirmed, I will continue to be ever mindful of my oath to uphold the law and will continue to treat everyone who comes before me fairly.

- 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 must follow legal precedent. The commitment to stare decisis should not vary depending on the court. All courts are bound to follow legal precedent for the sake of uniformity and to ensure that decisions are guided by the law, instead of by an individual judge's personal opinion as to what the law or outcome should be in a case.