

**Responses of Mary Geiger Lewis
Nominee to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina
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: I believe the role of the judge is to determine the applicable law based upon precedent, to apply that law fairly and impartially to the facts before him or her, and to do so in a respectful and courteous manner.

- 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: Judges have an obligation to apply the law fairly and impartially in any case without regard to the political beliefs, economic status, gender, or ethnicity of those who appear before him or her. If confirmed I will do precisely that.

- 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: The doctrine of stare decisis applies to all courts. If confirmed, I would strictly adhere to the doctrine.