

Responses of Edgardo Ramos
Nominee to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York
to the Written Questions of 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 believe a judge must at all times demonstrate an abiding respect for the rule of law and an understanding of the limited role of judges within our constitutional system. The limited role of judges means that they should exercise restraint in all matters by deciding only the issues in controversy and by applying applicable precedent. A judge must also promote respect for the rule of law by deciding matters fairly, impartially and promptly, and by treating all parties that come before the court with respect.

- 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: As stated above, I believe federal judges have a responsibility to promote respect for the rule of law by treating all parties with respect and courtesy. If confirmed, I will endeavor to assure all litigants that they will be given a fair opportunity to be heard on all issues reasonably touching upon the matters in controversy, and that I will remain open minded throughout the litigation. Over the course of my professional career I have had the honor of representing litigants in civil and criminal matters both as counsel for plaintiff, federal prosecutor, and defense attorney. I have represented the United States government and federal criminal defendants, as well as multinational corporations and indigent individuals. I believe in each case I have represented my client zealously, honorably and competently. I believe this experience establishes my ability – and my commitment – to treat all litigants fairly.

- 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: In my opinion, district court judges are duty bound to apply precedential authority issued by the Supreme Court and the court of appeals of the circuit in which they sit. If confirmed, I would be fully prepared to apply such precedent. The obligation to follow precedent applies to all courts. I do not believe it varies depending on the court.