

Responses of Robin S. Rosenbaum
Nominee to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida
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 that in determining cases, judges should diligently ascertain the applicable law and apply it faithfully to the facts of the case. In so doing, judges should be fair and impartial, treating with respect and dignity all who come before the court. In addition, in order to promote the legitimacy and fairness of the system, judges should fully explain the reasons for their decisions. Finally, judges should preside over their dockets in an efficient manner.

I see the role of the judge in our constitutional system as a limited one. Judges do not make the law; instead, the role of judges is to apply the law as it is written, impartially and fairly, ensuring compliance with our Constitution.

- 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 can give my complete and unqualified assurances that litigants entering my courtroom will be treated fairly, regardless of their political beliefs or whether they are rich or poor, defendant or plaintiff. I hope and certainly believe that my time on the bench as a United States magistrate judge demonstrates the sincerity and completeness of my commitment in this regard.

- 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: *Stare decisis* is an important and essential doctrine in our judicial system. Adherence to binding precedent creates predictability in and lends legitimacy to our system of justice. District courts are bound by their circuit court and the United States Supreme Court. Circuit courts are bound by the United States Supreme Court and the prior rulings of the circuit court unless the *en banc* circuit overrules its own precedent. If confirmed as a United States district judge, I would faithfully apply the binding precedent of the United States Supreme Court and the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, as I have as a United States magistrate judge.