

Responses of John A. Ross
Nominee to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri
to the Written Questions 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: My judicial philosophy is to treat everyone appearing in court equally and respectfully while providing a fair and impartial opportunity to be heard. I believe the role of a judge in our constitutional system is to resolve disputes by carefully and thoughtfully applying the law to the facts of each case.

- 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: Having handled thousands of cases over the past eleven years as a circuit judge in the busiest circuit in the State of Missouri, I have always treated those who come before the court equally and respectfully, in accordance with my judicial philosophy. If confirmed, I will continue to perform the duties of my judicial office impartially and diligently, ensuring that every litigant in my court is provided with a fair and impartial opportunity to be heard.

- 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: If confirmed as a District Judge, I would follow the binding precedents of the higher courts, including the Supreme Court and the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. I have not considered how a higher court might regard the doctrine of stare decisis.