

Responses of Lorna G. Schofield
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? How do you see the role of the judge in our constitutional system?**

Response: My judicial philosophy is based on the rule of law, which I believe is a bedrock value in our democracy. The rule of law means to me that the outcome of any case should depend on consistent and transparent application of the law to the facts, and should not vary according to the identity of the judge or litigants. I believe that judges play a narrow but important role in our constitutional system, to ensure that the laws are constitutional, and to apply them consistently.

- 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 will do my best to treat litigants coming into my courtroom fairly no matter their identity, political beliefs, wealth, gender, race, ethnicity or any other identifying feature. In private practice I have represented both plaintiffs and defendants and would treat both fairly without regard to what party commenced the lawsuit.

- 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: All judges should strictly adhere to the doctrine of stare decisis. It is stare decisis that helps assure that judicial decisions follow the rule of law – namely, that they are consistent, predictable and fairly applied to all.