

**Responses of Robert J. Shelby**  
**Nominee to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah**  
**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 judges should decide only those issues presented in the cases before them, based solely on the facts presented, and while demonstrating a strict adherence and fidelity to the rule of law.

- 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: Given their direct interaction with parties and the public, I believe it is essential that trial court judges conduct themselves at all times in a manner that inspires trust and confidence in the judicial process. Inherent in this notion is the responsibility to ensure that all parties believe they have been afforded a full and fair opportunity to be heard by a judge who is well prepared, impartial, respectful, patient, and firmly committed to deciding issues based exclusively on the applicable legal doctrine. If confirmed, I am committed to this approach as trial court judge.

- 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: As I understand it, there are certain narrow and limited circumstances in which the Supreme Court and the courts of appeals may revisit prior decisions. This principle does not apply to district courts, which are bound to follow the established precedents of the appellate courts. It would constitute a violation of a district judge's oath to depart from this duty.