

Response of Sheri Polster Chappell
Nominee to be United States District Judge for the Middle 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: Judges must demonstrate a respect for the rule of law and an understanding of their role in our constitutional system. It is incumbent upon me to decide only those cases or controversies that are properly before me and base my decisions on the law and binding precedent of the United States Supreme Court and the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. A judge must decide all cases fairly and impartially and without regard to personal views or opinions. I have followed that philosophy for the past 12 years while acting as a state court judge and as a United States Magistrate Judge.

- 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: In my 12 years as a judge, I have treated every litigant with respect and dignity irrespective of their political beliefs or whether they are rich or poor, defendant or plaintiff. Every case before me is as important to me as it is to the litigants. I strive to listen carefully and make a just and timely ruling based upon the facts presented and according to the law. I give my complete assurance that litigants entering my courtroom will continue to be treated fairly.

- 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 adhere to the doctrine of *stare decisis* which helps to provide consistency under our rule of law. As a prospective United States District Judge, I am committed to honoring the doctrine of *stare decisis* and strictly following the controlling precedent established by the United States Supreme Court and, in my case, the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.