

Response of Pamela Ki Mai Chen
Nominee to be United States District Judge for the Eastern 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: In our constitutional system of government, the role of the judiciary is important but limited. Judges are responsible for ensuring the fair, impartial and consistent application of the law. Consistent with that role, my judicial philosophy is based on strict adherence to the rule of law and *stare decisis*, which means deciding cases based solely on the application of precedent, as established by the Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal, to the facts before the court.

- 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: All parties, whether they are defendants or plaintiffs, are entitled to fair, equal and respectful treatment before the court regardless of their political views or affiliations, or economic or social status. My record as a career prosecutor and government litigator demonstrates my commitment to exercising discretion and authority with fairness and impartiality. If confirmed, I would continue to maintain this standard of ensuring fair, equal and respectful treatment of all who appear before me.

- 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 and courts are bound by, and must adhere to, the doctrine of *stare decisis*, which is the bedrock of our legal system and is vital to ensuring consistency, predictability, uniformity, impartiality and fairness.