

Response of Shelly D. Dick
Nominee to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Louisiana
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 that a judge should be fair, impartial, tolerant, and even tempered. A judge must apply the rule of law to the facts of the particular case before the court and treat every litigant with dignity and respect, regardless of color, race, creed, position, or means. A judge's role is to resolve disputes in a just, timely, efficient, and professional manner in accord with the rule of law and the rules of procedure.

- 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 believe that a judge's demeanor should instill trust, confidence, and faith in the legal system. If confirmed, I will apply the rule of law and the rules of procedure equally to all parties and treat all litigants with dignity and respect regardless of their background, political beliefs, or financial means.

- 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 a District Court judge I would be obliged to apply the doctrine of stare decisis. The doctrine of stare decisis is the bedrock of consistency and predictability in the law and, as such, it is a principle of particular importance at the District Court level.