

Senate Judiciary Committee
“Nominations”
Questions for the Record
March 7, 2018
Senator Amy Klobuchar

Questions for District Court Nominees

[For Mari Dooley, Nominee to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut; Dominic Lanza, Nominee to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona; and Jill Otake, Nominee to be United States District Judge for the District of Hawaii]

- You all have experience working as an Assistant U.S. Attorney. As a former prosecutor, I would like to ask: What have you learned from your experience as a prosecutor, and how has that experience prepared you to serve as a federal judge?
- How would you view the importance of adhering to precedent – even precedent where you felt that the case was wrongly decided – if you are confirmed as a federal judge?

As an Assistant U.S. Attorney I worked with and labored against some of the finest lawyers in Connecticut. I was vested with enormous authority to make very difficult decisions. I was held to the highest of ethical standards, both inside and outside the courtroom. All of this has served me very well as a Judge of the Superior Court and if confirmed, I expect it will continue to serve me well on the federal bench. As an Assistant U.S. Attorney, I was trained to seek justice. As a judge, I make decisions which I believe are fair and just based upon the facts presented and the applicable law. While the vantage point in the courtroom and the respective roles are different, the goal of a just result, remains.

As a district court judge, it would be my duty, as it is now as a judge of the Superior Court, to faithfully adhere to all binding precedent, regardless of any personal opinion I might have about the correctness of that precedent.