

Response of Andrew P. Gordon
Nominee to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada
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 be fair, must not pre-judge a case or issue, and must treat all parties with respect and dignity. Judges should faithfully follow the legal precedents of the Supreme Court and the Courts of Appeals. Federal judges must keep in mind that their jurisdiction and their role in government are limited; judges must respect, and not usurp, the roles of the legislative and executive branches. A judge must remember that he is a public servant, and that the courts belong to the citizens.

- 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: For the past 10 years, I have devoted a significant portion of my practice to serving as a private arbitrator and mediator. I have always treated the parties and their counsel with respect, regardless of their station in life. I do not pre-judge cases or issues, and I listen carefully to the arguments and evidence. If confirmed as a judge, I will continue to approach cases in the same way.

- 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: Business owners, corporate boards, and individual citizens depend on consistency and predictability in the law, so they can make decisions and govern themselves accordingly. *Stare Decisis* is critical to ensuring that predictability. The law and the outcome of cases should not change based upon the individual judge.