Senator Chuck Grassley Questions for the Record

Lydia Griggsby Nominee, Judge for the U.S. Court of Federal Claims

1. What is the most important attribute of a judge, and do you possess it?

Response: I believe that the most important attributes of a judge are impartiality and integrity. A judge should approach each case objectively and with an open mind, regardless of personal views or beliefs. I believe that a judge should also act with the highest degree of integrity in deciding cases and in interacting with counsel and the parties in a particular case. I believe that I have demonstrated impartiality and integrity throughout my legal career when interacting with my colleagues, opposing counsel, judges, court staff and the public.

2. Please explain your view of the appropriate temperament of a judge. What elements of judicial temperament do you consider the most important, and do you meet that standard?

Response: A judge should be fair, impartial, patient, and respectful towards all parties who appear before the court. An appropriate judicial temperament helps to ensure public confidence in the judicial system and that every litigant feels that he or she is being treated fairly and had an opportunity to be heard. A judge must also faithfully apply the law to the facts of a particular case and not be influenced by popular opinion or criticism. Throughout my legal career, I have endeavored to conduct myself with the utmost integrity and to treat all participants in the legal process fairly, with respect and professionalism.

3. What assurances or evidence can you give this Committee that, if confirmed, your decisions will remain grounded in precedent and the text of the law rather than any underlying political ideology or motivation?

Response: If confirmed, I will faithfully apply precedent and the text of the law in all of my judicial decision-making. Political ideology or motivation should never affect the outcome of a case.

4. What assurances or evidence can you give the Committee and future litigants that you will put aside any personal views and be fair to all who appear before you, if confirmed?

Response: I believe that a judge must be impartial and should always approach a case objectively, fairly and with an open mind, regardless of any personal views or beliefs. Throughout my legal career, I have endeavored to conduct myself with the utmost integrity and to treat all participants in the legal process with respect and professionalism. If confirmed, I will always administer justice fairly, with integrity and with an open mind.

5. If confirmed, how do you intend to manage your caseload?

Response: If confirmed, I will work diligently on all matters, as I have done for nearly 20 years as a government attorney. I will also seek the advice of experienced colleagues and court staff regarding the best practices for the efficient and effective management of my chambers and caseload.

6. Do you believe that judges have a role in controlling the pace and conduct of litigation and, if confirmed, what specific steps would you take to control your docket?

Response: Yes, I believe that judges have an important role in controlling the pace and conduct of litigation. If confirmed, I would hold appropriate status conferences, issue clear and precise scheduling orders and be diligent in ruling on pending motions to facilitate a timely and fair resolution of the matters before me.

7. Would you please comment on how you will transition from being an advocate to being a Judge?

Response: If confirmed, I will transition from being an advocate to a judge by being fair and open-minded in all matters that would come before me, consulting with my colleagues on the best practices for making the transition to being a judge, participating in continuing legal education courses on relevant areas of the law and working diligently to manage my docket.

8. In general, Supreme Court precedents are binding on all lower federal courts and Federal Circuit Court precedents are binding on the Court of Federal Claims. Please describe your commitment to following the precedents of higher courts faithfully and giving them full force and effect, even if you personally disagree with such precedents?

Response: I am committed to faithfully following the binding precedent of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and the United States Supreme Court. I will do so regardless of whether I personally agree or disagree with the precedent.