

Response of Ketanji B. Jackson
Nominee to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia
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: My judicial philosophy is to approach all cases with professional integrity, meaning strict adherence to the rule of law, keeping an open mind, and deciding each issue in a transparent, straightforward manner, without bias or any preconceived notion of how the matter is going to turn out.

- 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: If I am confirmed as a district court judge, the litigants in my courtroom could rest assured that I will treat everyone with patience, dignity, and respect no matter what his status or station in life. I will encourage all litigants to present their arguments and evidence and establish an environment in which everyone is afforded a full and fair opportunity to be heard. Having worked with a variety of people throughout my career, I am comfortable communicating with, and relating to, people of various beliefs and backgrounds. Moreover, I am entirely capable of approaching each matter with an open mind and giving thorough consideration to every argument, no matter who presents it. I would be fully committed to doing so if confirmed as a district court judge.

- 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: Stare decisis is a bedrock legal principle that ensures consistency and impartiality of judgments. All judges are obligated to follow stare decisis, and the doctrine is particularly strong as applied to federal district court judges, who are bound to follow the precedents of the Supreme Court and the respective Courts of Appeals.