

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?

In the course of my career as a state and federal prosecutor, I have had the honor of appearing before approximately 60 different judges. I have learned something from each of them. The best judges share four things in common: (1) they are well-prepared; (2) they follow the law and are thus predictable; (3) they listen to the parties and read the briefs submitted; and (4) they have a pleasant, judicious demeanor.

My work as a prosecutor has also humbled me and made me aware of the gravity of each decision I make. I am sensitive to the power I hold, and treat it with humility and respect. If fortunate enough to be confirmed, I would understand that the position is greater than I am and that the public confidence in the Judiciary is governed in large part by the behavior of judges.

- 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?

Judges should always follow the rule of law, even if they do not like it. If fortunate enough to be confirmed, I expect that there will be occasions when I do not like the precedent I am required to follow, but will faithfully apply such precedent.