

Response of Nelson Stephen Román
Nominee to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York
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: A judge must decide matters fairly, impartially and promptly, and treat all parties that come before the court with respect. A judge must at all times respect the rule of law and understand the limited role of judges within our constitutional system. This means that judges should exercise judicial restraint in all matters by deciding only the issues in controversy before them and should apply prevailing applicable precedent.

- 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: Judges must be impartial and treat all parties with respect regardless of their socio-economic status or political beliefs. As a judge for approximately fifteen years, both at the state trial court and appellate court levels, I have demonstrated a commitment to approach each and every matter with an open mind. I have endeavored to treat all parties respectfully and impartially. If confirmed, I would continue to give all parties equal respect and consideration.

- 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: District court judges are duty bound to apply precedential authority issued by the Supreme Court and by the court of appeals of the circuit in which they sit. As I have demonstrated over the course of my career, I am fully prepared to apply such precedent. The obligation to follow precedent applies to all courts—trial and appellate courts.