

Responses of Mark E. Walker
Nominee to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Florida
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 treat everyone who appears before me with respect and to respect the rule of law. As for the role of a judge, a judge must fairly and impartially interpret and apply the law, not make the law.

- 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: I have served as a state court judge since January 6, 2009. During that time, I have earned a reputation for fairness and integrity. If confirmed as a district court judge, I will continue to treat all litigants fairly and respectfully regardless of their political beliefs or whether they are rich or poor, defendant or plaintiff.

- 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: The doctrine of stare decisis is essential to our legal system. A district court judge must follow controlling precedent. Under extraordinary circumstances, a Court of Appeals sitting en banc or the United States Supreme Court may reconsider its prior decisions.