

Responses of Andrea R. Wood
Nominee to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois
to the Written Questions of Senator Amy Klobuchar

1. If you had to describe it, how would you characterize your judicial philosophy?

Response: I believe that a judge should demonstrate a deep and abiding respect for the rule of law, the institution of the judiciary and its role in our constitutional system. The integrity of our judicial system depends upon judges treating all participants in the judicial process with respect and fairness, and faithfully applying the law to the facts of particular cases without regard for personal views or opinions.

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: Over the course of my career, I believe that I have achieved a reputation among my colleagues and adversaries for professionalism, respectfulness and fairness. If confirmed as a district court judge, I would continue to treat all parties with respect and provide full, fair and thoughtful consideration to their arguments, regardless of their political beliefs, socio-economic positions or other personal characteristics. Furthermore, I would approach all cases with the same level of dedication, preparation and open-mindedness, regardless of the subject matters or dollar amounts involved.

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: I believe that all judges should adhere to the doctrine of stare decisis. District court judges, in particular, are absolutely bound by controlling precedent from the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals for the Circuit in which they sit.