

**Statement of Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.),  
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee,  
Executive Business Meeting  
April 23, 2015**

Today we consider the President's nomination of Sally Yates to be Deputy Attorney General. The Deputy Attorney General is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Department and is an essential partner to the Attorney General in safeguarding Americans.

Sally Yates knows how the Department of Justice works. She is eminently qualified to serve as Deputy Attorney General. For more than 25 years, she has served as a prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia. For the past five years, she has served as the U.S. Attorney in that district, following her unanimous confirmation by the Senate in 2010. And since January 2015, she has served as the Acting Deputy Attorney General. She has earned a well-deserved reputation for fairness, integrity, and toughness.

Her nomination is supported by a broad array of individuals from across the political spectrum, including letters of support from Georgia's Republican Governor, Nathan Deal; Georgia's Republican Attorney General, Samuel Olens; and former Democratic Senator from Georgia, Sam Nunn. She also has the support of law enforcement and civil rights leaders.

At her nomination hearing, Ms. Yates was introduced by Congressman John Lewis, Senator Isakson, and Senator Perdue. As Senator Isakson noted when Ms. Yates was first nominated this past December, "Sally Yates is an exceptionally skilled attorney with a strong record of public service and a well-qualified nominee to be deputy attorney general. She has served with distinction as U.S. attorney for Georgia's Northern District and throughout her career has demonstrated her abilities as a talented prosecutor in a wide array of challenging cases."

I could not agree more, and I look forward to working with members to ensure a swift and fair confirmation process for this outstanding nominee. The dedicated public servants at the Justice Department deserve a confirmed leader in this crucial position, and we should work to confirm Ms. Yates without delay. I also hope we can report Kara Stoll to be a United States Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit and Roseann Ketchmark to be a United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri. This committee has not held a hearing on single judicial nomination in more than six weeks and we have several well qualified nominees waiting for a hearing. I hope Chairman Grassley will soon schedule a nominations hearing so that states like California, New York and Pennsylvania will not have the long standing vacancies that the state of Texas has endured.

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