

**Prepared Statement by Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
Hearing on the Nominations of:
Luis Felipe Restrepo, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit
Travis Randall McDonough, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of
Tennessee
Waverly D. Crenshaw, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of
Tennessee
June 10, 2015**

I'd like to welcome the nominees to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Being nominated to the federal judiciary is a significant accomplishment and reflects well on the career of each of the nominees. This a proud moment for you and your families. Congratulations on your nominations.

Today's hearing is the 6th nominations hearing this year during which we will have considered a total of 17 nominees (4 executive and 13 judicial nominees). This total includes hearings for both the Attorney General and the Deputy Attorney General. This is almost identical to the standard established in 2007 when the Democrats were in charge and President Bush was in the White House. By the end of June 2007, this Committee held 5 nominations hearings for a total of 17 nominees.

And regarding circuit court nominations, I would note that at this point in 2007, the Committee had held a hearing for two circuit court nominees. Likewise, including today's hearing, we will have held hearings for two circuit court nominees.

Regarding floor activity, there has been some confusion about the record from 2006 and 2007. At the end of 2006, during Bush's presidency, 13 district court judges who were already voted out of committee and awaiting consideration on the Senate floor were returned to the President. Those nominees were then re-submitted to the Senate in January of 2007, and processed in the new Congress. So, that's why the Senate had considered the number that it had by this point in 2007. This is the standard practice. And that practice is typically followed so that newly elected members have an opportunity for their voices to be heard.

Now, contrast that to what happened last November and December. The then-Majority, without regard for Senate history or practice, confirmed 11 federal judges during the Lame Duck who, under regular order, should have been considered this Congress, just like was done in 2007. Had the historical practice been followed, we'd have about the same number of confirmations by now.

Overall, the Senate has confirmed 311 of President Obama's judicial nominees. At the same point in his presidency, President Bush only had 276 judicial nominees confirmed. So I will again point out that President Obama is doing significantly better in terms of judicial confirmations than President Bush was at this point in his presidency.