

**Statement of Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.)
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
Executive Business Meeting
June 19, 2014**

Today, we have 13 judicial nominations on the agenda—all of which are ready to be reported.

Ronnie White is nominated to serve as a district judge in the Eastern District of Missouri. I supported him when he was first nominated by President Clinton nearly 17 years ago. In the intervening years, Judge White went on to be the first African American to serve as the Chief Judge of the Missouri Supreme Court. Since 2007, he has worked in private practice in St. Louis, Missouri.

The Committee has received several letters of support for Judge White's nomination, including from the President of the Missouri Fraternal Order of Police, who wrote on behalf of its more than 5,400 members. He wrote:

We [are] hopeful that the Senate confirms his nomination.

We do not take such stances lightly. As front line law enforcement officers, we recognize the important need to have jurists such as Ronnie White, who have shown themselves to be tough on crime, yet fair and impartial.

As a former justice on the Missouri Court of Appeals and as the Chief Justice of the Missouri Supreme Court, Ronnie White has proven that he has the experience and requisite attributes to be a quality addition to the U.S. District Court.

We can think of no finer or more worthy nominee.

I could not agree more and I ask unanimous consent to include the Missouri FOP's letter of support in the record.

Also on today's agenda we have bipartisan legislation to reauthorize expiring provisions of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act (STELA). STELA provides satellite television companies with statutory copyright licenses that allow them to carry broadcast television content. The license that allows satellite carriers to retransmit distant broadcast signals to customers who cannot otherwise receive a signal over-the-air is set to expire at the end of the year.

Senator Grassley and I have worked together on a reauthorization that will ensure that approximately 1.5 million, predominately rural customers do not lose access to the broadcast television signals that they currently receive come December 31.

We should act swiftly to move a bipartisan, non-controversial STELA reauthorization through the Senate. Our process in the Judiciary Committee starts today.

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