

**Statement of Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.),  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Executive Business Meeting  
July 17, 2014**

Today, we have five judicial nominations on the agenda. Each was held over last week, and is ready to be reported to the Senate floor.

Pamela Harris is a highly accomplished lawyer, currently teaching at my alma mater, Georgetown University Law Center. She previously served in the Office of Legal Policy at the Department of Justice, as a partner in private practice, as a Professor at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, and as the Executive Director of the Supreme Court Institute at Georgetown. After graduating from Yale Law School, she served as a law clerk to Judge Harry Edwards on the D.C. Circuit, and to Justice John Paul Stevens on the Supreme Court. Her nomination received the American Bar Association's highest rating of unanimously well qualified.

I have heard some Senators claim that Pamela Harris would be unable to set aside political views and faithfully uphold the Constitution. This is contradicted by both her testimony before the Committee and her professional record. The Committee has received many letters of support for Ms. Harris' nomination, including from numerous prominent Republicans who are respected in the legal community. She also has the strong support of her home states senators, Senator Mikulski and Senator Cardin.

One letter, signed by more than 80 of her professional peers, including Gregory Garre, the former Solicitor General for President George W. Bush, reads, "We are lawyers from diverse backgrounds and varying affiliations, but we are united in our admiration for Pam's skills as a lawyer and our respect for her integrity, her intellect, her judgment, and her fair-mindedness."

Another letter of support from current and former partners at O'Melveny and Myers LLP, including a former White House Counsel to President Reagan reads, "Although we may not all share Pam's views on a range of legal and political issues, we are united in the belief that Pam possesses the intellect, fair-mindedness, humility, and fundamental decency to make an excellent federal judge."

Without objection, I will include the letters of support received by the Committee on Pamela Harris' nomination in the record. After we hear from Senator Grassley and we have a quorum, we will move to report the district court nominees and the court of federal claims nominees en bloc. I understand that the minority would like a roll call vote on Pam Harris.

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