

[REDACTED]

**NOMINATION OF
THE HONORABLE BRETT M. KAVANAUGH
TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES**

[REDACTED]

Monday, September 17, 2018

**United States Senate
Committee on the
Judiciary
Washington, D.C.**

Corrected Transcript

The teleconference commenced at 6:04 p.m. and was reported from Room SD-181, Dirksen Senate Office Building, in Committee Confidential session

Participants:

Judge Brett Kavanaugh

Alex Walsh, on behalf of Judge Kavanaugh

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Senate Judiciary Committee Professional Staff Members.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

PROCEEDINGS

1 [REDACTED]: Good evening. This is [REDACTED]
2
3 from the Senate Judiciary Committee. Is this Judge
4 Kavanaugh?

5 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: This is Brett Kavanaugh. I'm
6 here with Alex Walsh, my counsel.

7 [REDACTED] Great. Well, thank you very much for
8 getting on this call with us today. As you know, this is
9 part of the Committee's background investigation into
10 your nomination. Just so you know, this call is being
11 transcribed.

12 I'll let the rest of my colleagues here introduce
13 themselves.

14 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED] for
15 Chairman Grassley.

16 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED] for Chairman Grassley.

18 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED] We also have a transcriber here as
20 well.

21 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: Great.

22 [REDACTED] We'd also like to note for the record
23 that the Ranking Member's staff were invited to this
24 background investigation follow-up phone call and they
25 have declined to join.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] Again, Judge, thank you for chatting
2 with us today. We want you to be able to answer the
3 questions we have in the most complete and truthful
4 manner as possible. So if you have any questions during
5 this process or if you don't understand any of our
6 questions, just let us know.

7 If you don't know the answer to a question or don't
8 remember, don't guess. Just give us your best
9 recollection. It's okay to tell us if you learned
10 information from somewhere else, if you indicate how
11 you came to know that information.

12 If there's anything you don't remember, just give us
13 the best of your knowledge. If you have names of folks
14 that can provide further information, we'd take those.

15 For the benefit of everyone here, this interview is
16 part of Judge Kavanaugh's background investigation and,
17 unless we get a waiver to do so, its contents can't be
18 shared with anyone whose name does not appear on the
19 list of designated staff or representatives pursuant to this
20 Committee's September 22, 2009, memorandum of
21 understanding with the counsel of the President of the
22 United States.

23 [REDACTED] Also, all Senators are entitled to a
24 briefing of this interview if they request one.

25 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: Okay.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] Judge, before we get to the content of
2 the questions here, I have a couple overview questions
3 questions for you just on the process of what we're doing
4 today. First, you should understand that, although this
5 interview is not given to you when you're under oath, by
6 law you're required to answer questions from Congress
7 truthfully. Do you understand this?

8 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: I do.

9 [REDACTED] Section 18 -- Section 1001 of USC 18
10 makes it a crime to make any materially false, fictitious,
11 or fraudulent statement or representation in the course
12 of a Congressional investigation, and that statute applies
13 to your statements in this interview. Do you understand
14 that?

15 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: I do.

16 [REDACTED] I'm sorry; we didn't catch that.

17 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: I do.

18 [REDACTED] Witnesses who knowingly provide
19 false statements could be subject to criminal prosecution
20 and imprisonment for up to five years. Do you
21 understand this?

22 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: I do.

23 [REDACTED] Is there any reason you'd be unable to
24 provide truthful answers to today's questions?

25 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: No, there's no reason.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] Great. Thank you, and I will get started
2 with our questions.

3 Last week the Committee received additional
4 information to your background investigation file. So our
5 questions for you today are related to that information.
6 The Committee received a letter from an anonymous
7 source regarding alleged conduct by you from your time in
8 high school. Although the names are redacted from the
9 version the Committee received, since then we have come
10 to understand the name of the person who wrote this letter
11 is named Christine Ford. She made that public.

12 I understand that you have denied all conduct the
13 letter alleges, but we'd still like to ask you some follow-
14 up questions pertaining to the letter that we received.
15 Again, I understand these questions may be
16 uncomfortable to discuss, so we do appreciate you
17 discussing them with us and your candor.

18 Again, like in the last call we did, none of these are
19 meant to be accusatory. We're simply trying to gain
20 information today.

21 First, have you read the letter and are you familiar
22 with its contents?

23 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: I have.

24 [REDACTED] Are you familiar with the Washington
25 Post article on this topic as well?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1 (Pause.)

2 [REDACTED] Are you there?

3 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: I am.

4 [REDACTED] Sorry. Was that -- are you familiar with the
5 Washington Post article on this topic?

6 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: Yes, I am.

7 [REDACTED] Great.

8 [REDACTED] We'd like to first ask you some
9 questions about Christine Blasey Ford. I don't know if I'm
10 saying that right. Do you know Dr. Ford?

11 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: We did not travel in the same
12 circles in high school. I recognize the name.

13 [REDACTED] So do you recall meeting her or
14 knowing her at all in high school?

15 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: Again, we didn't travel in the
16 same circles, but I recall her name.

17 [REDACTED] So you don't recall meeting her?

18 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: I don't recall meeting her,
19 that's correct.

20 [REDACTED] And you don't recall any interactions
21 with her specifically?

22 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: That's correct.

23 [REDACTED] Do you know any members in her
24 family?

25 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: I do not.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] To the best of your knowledge, have
2 you ever attended a party where Dr. Ford was also at the
3 party?

4 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: I can't rule out that we were at
5 the same party at some point where the circles, our social
6 circles, would have overlapped.

7 [REDACTED] Do you ever remember having
8 conversations with her at a party?

9 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: I do not.

10 [REDACTED] Do you ever recall having had any
11 physical encounters with Dr. Ford?

12 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: I did not.

13 [REDACTED] All right. I'd like to go through just
14 some of her allegations so we have your answers clearly
15 on the record. Have you ever pushed Dr. Ford into a
16 bedroom?

17 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: No, I have not.

18 [REDACTED] Have you ever locked Dr. Ford in a
19 bedroom?

20 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: No, I have not.

21 [REDACTED] Have you ever pinned Dr. Ford on her
22 back to a bed?

23 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: No, I have not.

24 [REDACTED] Have you ever groped Dr. Ford?

25 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: No, I have not.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] Have you ever put your hand over Dr.
2 Ford's mouth?

3 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: No, I have not.

4 [REDACTED] Have you ever tried to remove Dr.
5 Ford's clothing?

6 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: No, I have not.

7 [REDACTED] Have you ever been in a room with Dr.
8 Ford while a man named Mark Judge jumped on top of
9 you.

10 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: No, I have not.

11 [REDACTED] More broadly, have you ever been in a
12 bedroom with Dr. Ford?

13 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: No, I have not.

14 [REDACTED] Does anyone have any follow-up on
15 that set of questions?

16 [REDACTED] I don't, no.

17 [REDACTED] I'd like to ask you a few questions
18 about Mark Judge. Do you know him?

19 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: I do know him.

20 [REDACTED] Can you describe your relationship
21 with him, both what it was like in the eighties and also
22 what it's like today?

23 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: In high school, we were in a
24 class of about a hundred, and we were friends; and kept

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1 in touch for a while after high school occasionally. But I
2 have not been in touch with him in several years, putting
3 aside potential group emails that members of my high
4 school class might send out that would include both of us.

5 [REDACTED] So you first met Mr. Judge during high
6 school, is that correct?

7 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: I believe in the fall of 1979. I
8 might have met him in eighth grade when he was at Our
9 Lady of Mercy, I believe, and I was at Mater Dei.

10 [REDACTED] And the last time you recall speaking
11 to him was when?

12 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: I can't say for sure, but it's a
13 while ago. I would probably think a couple of years.

14 [REDACTED] When you were in high school, how
15 frequently -- or did you attend social events, or were you
16 at the same social events together?

17 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: Yes.

18 [REDACTED] How frequently would you say that
19 was?

20 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: We as a class or a group of
21 friends would see each other a lot of weekends.

22 [REDACTED] In the past week, you have not spoken
23 with him?

24 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: Correct, I have not spoken

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1 with him.

2 [REDACTED] Can you describe what the social events
3 were, what they typically were, those weekends that you
4 met Mr. Judge?

5 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: There often were parties on
6 Saturday night during the school year, where one person
7 would have a party where boys and girls would be, and it
8 was fairly typical, at least for the high school culture of
9 1979 through 1983, I believe.

10 [REDACTED] Were there ever -- was there drinking at
11 these parties?

12 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: Yes. The drinking age was 18
13 and that was not followed by the parents. The parents
14 were generally present at these parties.

15 [REDACTED] They were?

16 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: Yes.

17 [REDACTED] Were there ever occasions where there
18 were not parents present?

19 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: I'm sure there were.

20 [REDACTED] Did any of these parties include
21 socializing with students at the Holton Arms School?

22 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: I believe so on occasion. But
23 our school primarily socialized with girls from Stone
24 Ridge, Holy Child, occasionally Visitation, Immaculata,
25 sometimes Holy Cross. But, that said, I would imagine

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1 that there were Holton Arms girls there on occasion and I
2 was friends with a couple.

3 [REDACTED] Do you recall their names?

4 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: Virginia Hume and Lisa
5 Odyniec. Both of them -- Virginia's my class. Lisa
6 Odyniec was a year above me. "Odyniec" is ODYNIEC.

7 [REDACTED] Do you recall how old the Holton Arms
8 students were and how old you were at the time?

9 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: No. I'm not sure I fully
10 understand the question.

11 [REDACTED] Sorry. When you socialized with students
12 from the Holton Arms School, do you recall was it
13 throughout high school or was it particular years?

14 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: I don't think I remember
15 specifics on that in terms of tenth, eleventh, twelfth
16 grade. I think ninth grade did not involve as much
17 socializing as happened in tenth and eleventh.

18 [REDACTED] Okay. Did you ever have a sexual
19 encounter with a Holton Arms student?

20 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: I do not believe so. But I'd like
21 to think about that to make sure that I'm being fully
22 accurate. But I do not believe so as I sit here right now.

23 [REDACTED] Thank you.

24 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: I know I -- I know I never had
25 sexual intercourse.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] I'd like to return -- the details are
2 vague to us, but the letter indicates that an assault
3 occurred in a suburban Maryland home at a gathering
4 that included Dr. Ford and four others. Do you recall a
5 party in a suburban Maryland home with her and four
6 others?

7 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: No.

8 [REDACTED] Do you recall any parties in suburban
9 Maryland homes that you were at? Was that a place that
10 you went to parties?

11 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: Yes. I lived in suburban
12 Maryland and many of my classmates and friends and
13 many of the girls also lived in that same county.

14 [REDACTED] We have a couple questions about
15 what your life looked like in the summer of 1982. Where
16 were you living?

17 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: I lived in my parents' house at
18 [REDACTED] Bethesda, Maryland.

19 [REDACTED] Were you dating anyone that summer?

20 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: I had been dating someone.
21 That ended in early June. I had some dates over the
22 summer with another friend and then started dating
23 someone in September.

24 [REDACTED] Did you have a job that summer?

25 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: I had a lawn-cutting business

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1 that I -- it was just me, as I recall.

2 [REDACTED] Were you taking any classes?

3 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: No. I was -- no.

4 [REDACTED] Did you spend time at the Columbia
5 Country Club?

6 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: It's possible that I was there
7 one or two times. I did not belong, nor did my family
8 belong, but friends, some friends of mine, belonged.

9 [REDACTED] Sorry. Judge, the question specifically,
10 did you spend time at Columbia Country Club during the
11 summer of 1982; I just want to clarify that it was once or
12 twice during that time.

3 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: That's what I recall.

14 [REDACTED] Do you recall that summer attending a
15 party at a home near the country club?

16 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: No.

17 [REDACTED] Give us one minute, please.

18 (Discussion off the record.)

19 [REDACTED] Thank you very much for holding. We
20 appreciate it.

21 I have two fairly direct questions to you and then I
22 think we have one more line of questioning, and then I
23 believe we'll be done. Do you remember the party
24 described by Dr. Ford?

25 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: No.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] Did you attend the party described by
2 Dr. Ford?

3 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: No.

4 [REDACTED] Did you ever attend any party where
5 you were one of four boys at a party and a single teenage
6 girl attended the party?

7 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: I have no recollection of that.

8 [REDACTED] Just a couple more questions. You stated
9 earlier that you attended parties where alcohol was
10 served, and sometimes parents were present at the
11 parties, sometimes they weren't. Did you drink at these
12 parties?

13 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: Yes.

14 [REDACTED] How much alcohol did you typically
15 consume at a party?

16 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: I drank beer, and it would
17 depend on the time of year, whether we were in football
18 season, things like that.

19 [REDACTED] In the summer?

20 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: In the summer, I was doing
21 sports all summer. So sometimes.

22 [REDACTED] Okay. And did you ever drink to excess,
23 to the point that you would have blacked out?

24 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: No.

25 [REDACTED] Does anyone else have any questions?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] One more minute, please.

2 (Discussion off the record.)

3 [REDACTED] Hey, Judge. This is [REDACTED]. I want to just hear from
4 you more generally. You've heard these allegations made by Dr. Ford.
5 You've read about them in the Washington Post. I just want to get your
6 general reaction to these allegations.

7 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: Thank you. I did not do this. I
8 did not do this to Ms. Ford or anyone. I want to be
9 categorical and unequivocal that I did not commit sexual
10 assault. That is not me. That was not me.

11 You have heard from friends I have from high school,
12 65 women, 220 or so total, men and women. That
13 includes many friends who were girls, as well as people I
14 dated, including dances over this period, all of whom
15 attested to my respect for women and treating them as
16 equals at the time.

17 You've heard throughout this process how I've treated
18 women as equals and sought to promote women. You
19 have a letter from women I went to college with. You have
20 a letter from 84 women I worked with in the Bush White
21 House.

22 You've heard often from my former clerks who are
23 women. A majority of my clerks have been women.
24 Almost all of them have gone on to clerk at the Supreme

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1 Court and I've served as mentors for them. You've heard
2 about my coaching, the girls basketball, the people I've
3 tried to influence in that through the coaching.

4 Sexual assault is horrible and traumatic. But I did not
5 do this. Maybe something happened to Ms. Ford by
6 someone else at some time in high school, but I know I did
7 not do this.

8 I'm a sitting judge with a lifetime of public service
9 and hard work. I've lived a good life. To clear my name,
10 I want a hearing tomorrow.

11 [REDACTED] Judge, I just want to walk through the
12 process through the Committee. As part of this
13 nomination, we have had -- we have received your
14 nomination. You have had, from what I understand, 65
15 meetings with United States Senators; is that correct?

16 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: That is correct.

17 [REDACTED] And that includes with Senator Dianne
18 Feinstein, the Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary
19 Committee; is that correct?

20 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: That is correct.

21 [REDACTED] Do you recall the date of that meeting
22 with Senator Feinstein?

23 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: I don't have the specific date
24 with me.

25 [REDACTED] Senator Feinstein had a letter that was

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1 dated July 30, 2018, that she said that she received from
2 Dr. Park. Senator Feinstein sat on this letter -- excuse me.
3 Dr. Ford. I apologize. Dr. Ford.

4 Senator Feinstein sat on this letter for nearly six
5 weeks and did not tell the Chairman or, apparently, any
6 other member of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Do you
7 understand that?

8 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: I have read that.

9 [REDACTED] During this time, we have had, along
10 with your meeting with 65 Senators, including Senator
11 Feinstein, we have also -- do you recall that Senator
12 Feinstein's staff and Chairman Grassley's staff had two
13 phone calls with you related to your FBI background
14 investigation? Do you recall, it was -- excuse me. One
15 phone call related to your FBI investigation; do you recall
16 that phone call?

17 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: I do recall the phone call.
18 There might have been two.

19 [REDACTED] Do you also -- I know that you're not
20 going to forget this. Do you recall sitting through three
21 days and 32 hours of a public hearing with the Senate
22 judiciary Committee?

23 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: I do.

24 [REDACTED] Do you recall at any point during this
25 process that this issue related to Dr. Ford, that Senator

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1 Feinstein had apparently since July 30th, according to the
2 letter, do you recall this ever being raised at any point up
3 to this point?

4 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: It was not raised.

5 [REDACTED] Was it raised in the closed session
6 where confidential or sensitive matters can be raised in a
7 private closed session at the end of your three days of
8 testimony? Was it raised then?

9 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: It was not raised in the closed
10 session.

11 [REDACTED] Do you recall if Senator Feinstein even
12 came to that closed session?

13 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: Senator Feinstein was not
14 present at the closed session.

15 [REDACTED] After your hearing, we have what are
16 called questions for the record. Do you understand that -
17 - they're "QFRs" for short in Senate parlance. Do you
18 recall that you received nearly 1300 questions for the
19 record that you had to respond to?

20 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: I do.

21 [REDACTED] Do you understand that this is more
22 questions for the record submitted to one Supreme Court
23 nominee, it's more than every other Supreme Court
24 nominee before you combined?

25 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: I do understand that.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] Was this issue -- was this allegation that
2 Dr. Ford made, that Senator Feinstein had since July 30th,
3 was this issue ever raised in any of these nearly 1300
4 questions for the record?

5 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: It was not raised.

6 [REDACTED] So here we are. We've already -- we
7 were scheduled to have your vote out of the Committee
8 to the Senate floor this Thursday. And for the first time,
9 on Sunday we learned the identity of this accuser. Is that
10 when you learned the identity of this accuser?

11 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: That is correct.

12 [REDACTED] What's your reaction to that?

13 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: I want a hearing tomorrow.

14 [REDACTED] Well, Judge, we understand that. We
15 have rules in the Senate Judiciary Committee. We would
16 love to have your hearing tomorrow, so you can come
17 testify and tell the American people what you just told us.
18 We have rules where we can't have your hearing for seven
19 days.

20 So we have noticed a hearing for next Monday at
21 10:00 a.m., so you can come in and tell the American
22 people what you've just told us. I hope that the American
23 people get to hear from you.

24 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: I look forward to the hearing.
25 I welcome the opportunity.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] Great. Do you have anything else that
2 you would like to add, Judge?

3 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: No, thank you.

4 [REDACTED] Thank you.

5 [REDACTED] Judge, we appreciate your candor in a
6 very difficult and sensitive topic, and we thank you for
7 talking with us today; and we will see you next week.

8 JUDGE KAVANAUGH: Thank you.

9 (Whereupon, at 6:34 p.m., the interview was
10 concluded.)

[REDACTED]