

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 13, 2018

Statement of Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr., on the Nomination of J. Nicholas Ranjan to be United States District Court Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania:

I am pleased that the Committee is holding a hearing to consider the nomination of Nicholas Ranjan to serve on the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. Senator Toomey and I have a long history of working together to fill Pennsylvania federal court vacancies. We have worked together in both Democratic and Republican Administrations— and with Democratic and Republican Judiciary Committee leaders—to support consensus candidates to serve on Pennsylvania District Courts and the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. I am grateful to Senator Toomey for working with me as we select judicial candidates to serve our constituents all across the Commonwealth.

I am pleased to support the nomination of Mr. Ranjan. Mr. Ranjan was born in Lancaster, Ohio. In 2000, he graduated *summa cum laude* from Grove City College in Grove City, Pennsylvania. He went on to receive his J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School where he graduated *cum laude*.

After law school, he completed a fellowship with the Ohio Office of the State Solicitor and then clerked on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, an experience that will undoubtedly serve him well as he joins the federal bench.

After his clerkship, Mr. Ranjan joined the law firm K&L Gates in Pittsburgh where he remains today. He was named partner at the firm in 2013. At K&L Gates, he has gained significant legal experience in federal courts. Importantly, at his firm and in the legal community, Mr. Ranjan has promoted diversity, improvements in parental leave policies and pro bono involvement.

Mr. Ranjan himself has dedicated significant time to pro bono work where he has represented prisoners and defendants in criminal and habeas cases both at the trial level and on appeal. Outside of his firm, Mr. Ranjan has also devoted his time to community service by mentoring high school and middle school students in Pittsburgh as well as local law students.

When I make a determination whether I should put forward a candidate for the federal judiciary, I consider a variety of attributes, including a person's academic record, intellect, experience, character, temperament and commitment to the rule of law. I believe Mr. Ranjan has all of those attributes and that he will faithfully serve our constituents in the Western District and the Commonwealth.

I am thankful for his willingness to serve on the federal bench and I am pleased the Committee is moving forward on his nomination by giving him a hearing today.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide remarks on his behalf.