

September 19, 2012
Dirksen 226
Senate Judiciary Committee
Statement of Senator Bill Nelson

Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley,

I am pleased today to introduce Sheri Polster Chappell, nominee for the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida.

Our state has a rich tradition of working from both sides of the aisle to put forward strong candidates to fill vacancies on the bench.

I hope that we in the Senate can work together to eliminate the backlog of qualified judicial nominees as soon as possible, so that our nation's Courts can function expeditiously and fairly, as they are intended.

Judge Chappell is originally from Ft. Myers, Florida.

She is joined today by her husband Christopher Chappell, their sons Michael and Zachary, her brother Barry Polster who has come in from Wisconsin, and her law clerks, Douglas Kemp and Brigitte Willauer and Brigitte's husband Nick Mizell, a former law clerk of Judge Chappell's.

Judge Chappell has served as a United States Magistrate Judge for the Middle District of Florida since 2003. Prior, she was a Lee County Court Judge for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit from 2000 to 2003. She began her career as an Assistant State Attorney for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit where she served from 1987 to 2000.

Judge Chappell is an active member of the community and has served on the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association, the Domestic Violence Task Force, and the Truancy Board. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Wisconsin and her Juris Doctor at Nova Southeastern University.