

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 19, 2016

Chairman Chuck Grassley
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley:

I appreciated having the opportunity to sit down with you on February 4th to discuss the nominations of Judge John Younge and Judge Robert Colville and my request that your committee advance these nominees. To date, these nominations unfortunately still remain pending before your committee, and I want to again urge you to bring these nominees up for a vote and favorably report them for consideration by the full Senate.

On July 30, 2015, President Obama nominated three nominees for judgeships in the Western District of Pennsylvania – namely, Judge Colville, Judge Susan Baxter, and Judge Marilyn Horan – as well as Judge Younge for a judgeship in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. These qualified nominees were initially recommended to the White House by Senator Bob Casey and me after a careful vetting process involving input from bipartisan panels, a thorough review of their records, personal interviews, and considerable deliberation. I was pleased to recommend them and still believe that all four of these nominees should be confirmed by the Senate as soon as possible.

As for Judge John Younge, I believe that he will be an outstanding addition to the federal bench. He has extensive experience presiding over both criminal and civil cases. He has served as a Judge on Court of Common Pleas for First Judicial Court of PA since 1996. Judge Younge has an admirable record of serving the Philadelphia community. For example, Judge Younge serves as a Deacon of Sharon Baptist Church in Philadelphia and Chairman for West Philadelphia Community Mental Health Consortium.

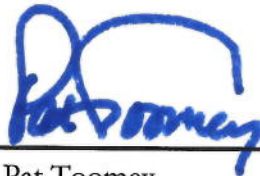
As for Judge Robert Colville, I believe he is also extremely well qualified to serve on the federal bench. Judge Colville has served as a Judge on the Court of Common Pleas for Allegheny County since 2000. In this position, he has presided over 440 trials, conciliated thousands of asbestos cases, and decided nearly 12,000 juvenile court matters. The American Bar Association gave him a majority “well qualified” rating, and I believe this stamp of approval is fully warranted.

Lastly, I should note that, due in part to the excellent work of your committee, the bipartisan process that Senator Casey and I have developed has proven highly effective for the people of Pennsylvania. Over the past five years, Senator Casey and I have worked together to fill 16 vacancies on the federal bench in Pennsylvania—14 vacancies on district

courts and two vacancies on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. Only two states—California and New York—have had more judges confirmed to their federal courts during this time.

I therefore urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to honor the bipartisan tradition Senator Casey and I have established over the years and promptly consider the nominations of Judge John Young and Judge Robert Colville.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pat Toomey", is written over a horizontal line.

Pat Toomey
U.S. Senator