

***Leaders for the Timely and Orderly Confirmation of Judicial
Nominees***

January 22, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate, Majority Leader
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Timely and Orderly Confirmation of Judicial Nominees

Dear Leader McConnell and Chairman Graham,

Thank you for your achievements on judicial nominations over the last two years. With your leadership, the Senate has confirmed a record number of Circuit Court nominees. We believe you have been wise to focus on these influential Circuit Court nominees.

The minority has obstructed judicial nominees and continues to do so, resulting in a continued backlog of unconfirmed District and Circuit Court nominees. Given the radical agenda in the House and the reduced likelihood of passing legislation in the Senate that will receive action in the House, we believe focusing on judicial nominations is an essential use of the Senate's bandwidth.

Few Senate matters are as crucial to the future of our Republic. Many American voters understand the influence that constitutionally-faithful judges will exercise, not only on maintaining the integrity of our democratic institutions, but also on the lives of future generations.

Therefore, we respectfully request that the Senate:

- (1) aggressively proceed with Senate Judiciary Committee hearings on all District and Court nominees in instances where the White House has at least consulted with home state Senators, especially in instances where Senators abuse the "blue slip" courtesy to obstruct nominees,
- (2) file for cloture immediately in every instance where it appears cloture will eventually be necessary,
- (3) exercise your authority over the Senate schedule to eliminate or minimize any post cloture debate on judicial nominees, including keeping the Senate in session for extended hours and extended days to run through the "debate" time demanded by obstructionist Senators.

Perhaps the obstructionists will relent and agree to a substantial reduction of time for debate of judicial nominees. Unless and until the obstruction of judicial nominees stops, it is fitting, strategic, and necessary to proceed without blue slips, file for cloture aggressively, and keep the Senate open and voting on judicial nominees.

Thank you again for your tireless work on judicial nominations. We stand with you to see the confirmation of a multitude of judges who respect the Constitution and refuse to legislate from the bench.

Respectfully,

Mathew D. Staver
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