

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1007

May 12, 2010

Mr. Kevin A. Maxim
President
Federal Bar Association
1718 Peachtree St., N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

Dear Kevin:

Thank you for contacting me regarding your concerns over the number of vacancies within the Federal Judiciary, and regret the delay in responding to you. I understand your concerns and the affect that these vacancies cause on the judicial process, and I appreciate hearing from you.

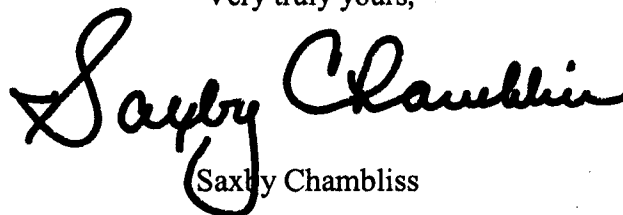
As you know, the President nominates judicial appointees, and it is the role of the Senate, under the advice and consent clause of the Constitution, to either confirm these nominees or reject them after a fair hearing and proper consideration. I take my role in this process very seriously.

It is well documented that issues regarding the duration of the confirmation process have persisted for much of the last decade. Each nominee to an Article III court is granted a lifetime appointment, and therefore must be carefully vetted in the Judiciary Committee before their nomination is considered by the full Senate. Once reported out of committee, it is at the discretion of the Majority Leader to determine when that nomination will receive consideration. Unfortunately, this is often time-consuming.

In the past I have been critical of the duration of this process, and I continue to believe that the Senate should act without undue delay in the prompt consideration of judicial nominees. I am also aware that this need for efficiency must be appropriately balanced with a thorough and fair review of each nominee's record. Please know that I remain committed to working to ensure that the Senate fulfils it role in the judicial nomination process in a timely manner.

Please do not hesitate to let me know how I may be of assistance.

Very truly yours,



Saxby Chambliss

SC:kb