

of Judge Irizarry, which has been pending on the Senate floor since last October. She is one of many Bush nominees with a "not qualified" or partial "not qualified" rating from the ABA. With the support of Senator SCHUMER, her nomination was considered and favorably reported by the committee. For months Democrats have been ready to vote on that district court nomination. The delay in considering her nomination since last October, a delay of 7 months, is attributable to the reluctance of the Republican Senate leadership to consider her nomination.

It is reminiscent of the way the Republican leadership treated the nomination of other Hispanics. For example, President Clinton's nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the 2nd Circuit was delayed for 16 months and was likewise stalled by Republicans on the Senate calendar for 7 months. Judge Richard Paez's nomination to the 9th Circuit was delayed for more than 4 years and was stalled by Republicans on the Senate calendar for more than 18 months alone. More recently, Republican Senate leadership even delayed Senate consideration of President Bush's nomination of Judge Edward Prado of Texas to the 5th Circuit for a month on the calendar, until we called them on it. Considering Judge Prado's nomination in a timely fashion would not have fit with the partisan political characterizations that Republicans wanted to draw of Democrats so they just left him on the shelf for a time.

The Republican leadership must be accountable for its scheduling priorities and the delays that it is causing in the consideration of the President's judicial nominations.

I congratulate Justice Townes and her family on her confirmation today.

Mr. President, I thank the Senators on both sides of the aisle who have worked with me and others in the past few weeks to get through this logjam on judges.

I yield back any remaining time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is all time yielded back?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Sandra Townes, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL, I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. CAMPBELL) is necessarily absent.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAPO). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 108 Ex.]

YEAS—95

Akaka	Dole	Lott
Alexander	Domenici	Lugar
Allard	Dorgan	McCain
Allen	Durbin	McConnell
Bayh	Ensign	Mikulski
Bennett	Enzi	Murkowski
Biden	Feingold	Murray
Bingaman	Feinstein	Nelson (FL)
Bond	Fitzgerald	Nelson (NE)
Boxer	Frist	Nickles
Breaux	Graham (FL)	Pryor
Brownback	Graham (SC)	Reed
Bunning	Grassley	Reid
Burns	Gregg	Roberts
Byrd	Hagel	Rockefeller
Cantwell	Harkin	Santorum
Carper	Hatch	Sarbanes
Chafee	Hollings	Schumer
Chambliss	Hutchison	Sessions
Clinton	Inhofe	Shelby
Cochran	Inouye	Smith
Coleman	Jeffords	Snowe
Collins	Johnson	Specter
Conrad	Kennedy	Stabenow
Cornyn	Kohl	Stevens
Corzine	Kyl	Sununu
Craig	Landrieu	Talent
Crapo	Lautenberg	Thomas
Daschle	Leahy	Voinovich
Dayton	Levin	Warner
DeWine	Lieberman	Wyden
Dodd	Lincoln	

NOT VOTING—5

Baucus	Edwards	Miller
Campbell	Kerry	

The nomination was confirmed.

NOMINATION OF KENNETH M. KARAS TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kenneth M. Karas, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

NOMINATION OF KENNETH M. KARAS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I am pleased today to speak in support of Kenneth Karas, who has been nominated to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Mr. Karas, a graduate of Columbia University School of Law, is a distinguished veteran of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, where he is co-chief of that office's unit specializing in terrorism cases. He is known among his peers as an "al-Qaida expert," for his assistance in successfully prosecuting four of Osama bin Laden's followers for the 1998 embassy bombings in East Africa. He is currently the lead prosecutor in the case against alleged al-Qaida terrorist Zacarias Moussaoui.

Mr. Karas is, by all accounts, a gifted prosecutor whose familiarity with Federal trial procedure will benefit him immensely on the Federal bench.

I applaud President Bush for his nomination of Mr. Karas and am con-

fidant that he will serve on the bench with compassion, integrity and fairness.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this evening the Senate considers the nomination of Kenneth Karas to be a United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York. For the past 11 years, Mr. Karas has served as an assistant United States attorney for the Southern District of New York. He received a favorable rating from the American Bar Association and he has the support of both Senators from his home State.

In sharp contrast to so many judicial nominees of this President, apparently selected for their political viewpoint, Mr. Karas appears to be a well-qualified, moderate nominee. He has advocated for civil rights and the rights of the indigent and has served the public as an assistant U.S. attorney for 11 years.

Mr. Karas's testimony and answers to my questions have made me confident that he will treat all who appear before him with respect. The nomination of Mr. Karas is an example of how effectively Democrats and Republicans can work together when we have qualified, moderate nominees.

Mr. Karas will be the ninth of President Bush's nominees confirmed to Federal court vacancies in New York, leaving only one vacancy on the Federal judiciary in the State. The nominee to that vacancy was favorably reported by the Judiciary Committee to the Senate 7 months ago. It has been the decision of the Republican leadership not to move the nomination of Judge Dora Irizarry, a Latina nominee. Democrats have been ready to vote on Judge Irizarry's nomination.

With 79 judicial confirmations in just the past year and a half, the Senate has confirmed more Federal judges than were confirmed during either Congress leading to a presidential election with a Democratic President and Republican Senate majority in 1996 and 2000.

This marks the 179th judicial confirmation since President Bush took office. That is more than President Reagan, the acknowledged all-time champion, achieved in his entire 4-year presidential term from 1981 through 1984 working hand in hand with a Republican Senate majority. It is more than President Clinton was able to achieve in his entire 4-year presidential term from 1993 through 1996, having to work with a Republican Senate majority during 1995 and 1996.

I congratulate Mr. Karas and his family on his confirmation today.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Kenneth M. Karas, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York?

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. CAMPBELL) is necessarily absent.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 109 Ex.]

YEAS—95

Akaka	Dole	Lott
Alexander	Domenici	Lugar
Allard	Dorgan	McCain
Allen	Durbin	McConnell
Bayh	Ensign	Mikulski
Bennett	Enzi	Murkowski
Biden	Feingold	Murray
Bingaman	Feinstein	Nelson (FL)
Bond	Fitzgerald	Nelson (NE)
Boxer	Frist	Nickles
Breaux	Graham (FL)	Pryor
Brownback	Graham (SC)	Reed
Bunning	Grassley	Reid
Burns	Gregg	Roberts
Byrd	Hagel	Rockefeller
Cantwell	Harkin	Santorum
Carper	Hatch	Sarbanes
Chafee	Hollings	Schumer
Chambliss	Hutchison	Sessions
Clinton	Inhofe	Shelby
Cochran	Inouye	Smith
Coleman	Jeffords	Snowe
Collins	Johnson	Specter
Conrad	Kennedy	Stabenow
Cornyn	Kohl	Stevens
Corzine	Kyl	Sununu
Craig	Landrieu	Talent
Crapo	Lautenberg	Thomas
Daschle	Leahy	Voinovich
Dayton	Levin	Warner
DeWine	Lieberman	Wyden
Dodd	Lincoln	

NOT VOTING—5

Baucus	Edwards	Miller
Campbell	Kerry	

The nomination was confirmed.

NOMINATION OF JUDITH C. HERRERA TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Judith C. Herrera, of New Mexico, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise in support of a New Mexican named Judith Herrera to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico. I believe everyone knows that the administration of justice is one of the most significant pillars of good government. I think in this instance the President has sent us an extraordinary person to be a judge in the District of New Mexico.

We have a vacancy there because of a justice who took senior status. We have a tremendous overload, and I am very pleased that we finally got to the point where we could have another judge. Maybe we can begin to take care

of this enormous overload. I thank everyone who worked on this nomination. Her credentials are impeccable. Every group that needed to recommend her.

Judith Herrera is a resident of Santa Fe, NM. She attended the University of New Mexico.

She then attended the Georgetown University Law Center where she earned her law degree.

We, in New Mexico, are fortunate that Judy decided to return to New Mexico upon completion of her law degree.

She began her career in public service shortly after returning to New Mexico, serving on the Santa Fe City Council from 1981 to 1986.

She continued her service by sitting on the boards of St. Vincent Hospital in Santa Fe, St. Michael's High School Foundation, also in Santa Fe, and the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

She has practiced law for more than 20 years in New Mexico, amassing in impressive resume and reputation in the legal community.

I am confident she will be an outstanding member of the federal judiciary.

I look forward to Judy Herrera's tenure on the bench.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I join my colleague, Senator DOMENICI, in urging the Senate to support this nomination. Judith Herrera is very qualified. I compliment the President for nominating her for this position. I compliment my colleague for recommending that nomination. She will serve us well on the district court in New Mexico.

Ms. Herrera began her career as a prosecutor, and has spent many years in private practice. Currently, she is a partner at Herrera, Long, Pound & Komer in Santa Fe, NM. She has also served on the Santa Fe City Council and on the University of New Mexico's Board of Regents. Mrs. Herrera has served with distinction in all of these positions.

I urge my fellow Senators to support her nomination.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to express my strong support for the confirmation of Judith Herrera, who has been nominated to the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico.

Ms. Herrera is an exceptional nominee and has a distinguished record of service in both the private and public sectors. After graduating from Georgetown Law School, Ms. Herrera worked as an Assistant District Attorney in Santa Fe, New Mexico where she prosecuted a variety of misdemeanor and felony offenses. She later entered the private sector and practiced in the areas of education and employment law.

Ms. Herrera distinguished herself as one of the most effective advocates in

New Mexico for employers defending wrongful discharge and discrimination cases. She later founded her own law firm, and currently serves as shareholder and president of that firm. Ms. Herrera has also served the local community of Santa Fe in a variety of ways. She was a member of the Santa Fe City Council, the Board of Trustees for St. Vincent Hospital, and the Board of Regents for the University of New Mexico. Ms. Herrera's broad experience as a trial attorney and her many hours of community service have prepared her for the challenges she will face as a Federal judge. I am confident that she will make a fine addition to the federal bench in the District of New Mexico.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY. Today the Senate is proceeding to confirm Judith Herrera to the U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico. Ms. Herrera is a partner with the Santa Fe firm of Herrera, Long, Pound & Komer, which she co-founded in 1987. She appears in court frequently on behalf of employers, and their insurance companies, serving as defense counsel in employment discrimination and wrongful discharge cases. Before starting this practice, she handled education cases and also served briefly as a local prosecutor. She also previously served on the Santa Fe City Council. She has the support of both of her home-state Senators.

Democratic support for the confirmation of Ms. Herrera, an active Republican, is yet another example of our extraordinary cooperation in this Presidential election year. Today's confirmation will make the 180th judicial nominee to be confirmed since this President took office. With 80 lifetime judicial appointments confirmed in just the past year and a half alone, the Senate has confirmed more Federal judges than were confirmed during the all of 1995 and 1996, when Republicans first controlled the Senate and President Clinton was in the White House. It also exceeds the 2-year total for the last Congress of the Clinton administration, when Republicans held the Senate. This Senate has now confirmed more Federal judges than were confirmed during either Congress leading to a presidential election with a Democratic President and Republican Senate majority in 1996 and 2000.

This marks the 180th judicial confirmation since President Bush took office. That is more than President Reagan, the acknowledged all-time champion, achieved in his entire 4-year Presidential term from 1981 through 1984 working hand in hand with a Republican Senate majority. It is more than President Clinton was able to achieve in his entire 4-year Presidential term from 1993 through 1996, having to work with a Republican Senate majority during 1995 and 1996.

I have already noted that at the Republican Senate leadership has again chosen to avoid debate of the nomination of J. Leon Holmes and Judge Dora