

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

THE JUDICIARY

Paul C. Huck, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, vice Kenneth L. Ryskamp, retired.

John W. Darrah, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, vice George M. Marovich, retired.

Joan Humphrey Lefkow, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, vice Ann C. Williams, elevated.

George Z. Singal, of Maine, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine, vice Morton A. Brody, deceased.

CONFIRMATION OF GEORGE SINGAL

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate has confirmed George Singal, the President's nominee for a seat on the U.S. District Court for the District of Maine, and rise to express my strong unequivocal support for his nomination.

In advance, I would like to thank the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Senator HATCH, for proceeding so expeditiously on Mr. Singal's nomination—especially when considering his nomination was transmitted to the Senate just six weeks ago. In addition, I would like to thank the Majority Leader for bringing his nomination to the floor so rapidly—just three days after being reported by the Judiciary Committee.

George Singal immigrated along with his family to the United States at a very young age, and has become a living embodiment of the American dream. He possesses a superior legal mind, has distinguished himself within the legal profession, and is deeply committed to upholding the very highest standards of our nation's judicial system.

Moreover, Mr. Singal has a wide range of experience serving as both a prosecutor and as a defense attorney—a deep understanding and appreciation for the constitutionally mandated roles of the three branches of government—and the enormous respect of his colleagues, a number of whom have contacted me in support of his nomination. Finally, and just as telling, he enjoys bipartisan support across the State of Maine.

Consider what George's background says about his character and qualifications. Born in a refugee camp in Italy after his family fled before the German invasion of his native Poland, he arrived in Bangor along with his sister and widowed mother in 1949.

After graduating summa cum laude from my alma mater, the University of Maine in 1967, and becoming only the second recipient of the highly respected Root-Tilden Scholarship in the history of the university, George briefly left our state to receive his law de-

gree from Harvard University three years later.

Indeed, not one to forget his roots, George immediately returned to Maine to begin his legal career in Bangor, serving as the Assistant County Attorney for Penobscot County from 1971 to 1973, even as he worked his way to a partnership in the respected law firm of Gross, Minsky, Mogul, & Singal—the firm in which he has remained to this day.

Having served on a wide variety of professional committees—including the advisory committee for the District of Maine that was assembled pursuant to the Civil Justice Reform Act—George's impeccable credentials and reputation for impartiality led to his appointment in 1993 to the Governor's Judicial Selection Committee by my husband, Governor McKernan.

That appointment, and the fact that he now chairs this prestigious committee that assists in the appointment of judges across the state under Independent Governor Angus King, is why it's a special pleasure for me to speak on his behalf today.

Of note, the enthusiastic support George has received from both sides of the aisle in Maine speaks volumes about Mr. Singal's talents and work ethic, as well as the universal respect he has earned over his years of work in the Maine judicial system.

Throughout his career, Mr. Singal displayed remarkable legal acumen, thanks in large part to his thorough, reflective and balanced approach to his work. This approach has justifiably earned him accolades throughout his career, including his selection to the American College of Trial Lawyers—an award given to less than one percent of trial lawyers nationwide—and his naming to the Best Lawyers in America, a designation that is made by his colleagues in the legal profession.

Mr. Singal possesses precisely the kind of judicial temperament and experience I think we should expect from all our judicial nominees. I am certain this is due, in no small part, to his family's background and the perseverance and work ethic they instilled in him as an immigrant brought to the United States by the ravages of World War II.

Further, his work during the late-1960s in the office of then-Congressman Bill Hathaway undoubtedly impressed upon him the need for balance between the three branches of government. In fact, it is his broad range of experiences that has undoubtedly instilled in Mr. Singal a proper perspective on the appropriate role and appropriate constitutional limitations of each branch of our government.

Clearly, George Singal has not only the professional qualifications to serve us well on the federal circuit, but also the personal credentials to match.

My work with George over the past few weeks has only confirmed what I

had already heard—this is a man of the highest integrity and personal character.

In conclusion, I am most proud to be able to express my support for Mr. George Singal. He has the qualifications, the intellect, the experience, the perspective, and the integrity to be an outstanding judge. Accordingly, I am pleased that my colleagues support his confirmation to the U.S. District Court for the District of Maine.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

MEASURE INDEFINITELY POSTPONED—S. 2553

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. 2553 be indefinitely postponed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR COMMITTEES TO FILE LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the adjournment of the Senate, committees have from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Wednesday, July 5, in order to file legislative matters.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING VALUE OF EDUCATION IN U.S. HISTORY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 129, submitted earlier today by Senators LIEBERMAN, SMITH of Oregon, CLELAND, and others.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 129) expressing the sense of Congress regarding the importance and value of education in United States history.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution and the preamble be agreed to, en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 129) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.