

the Eastern District of New York. She is a graduate of Fordham Law School.

Ms. Hynes, I look forward to your testimony.

STATEMENT OF PATRICIA HYNES, PRESIDENT, NEW YORK CITY BAR ASSOCIATION

Ms. HYNES. Thank you. Thank you, Chairman Kaufman, Ranking Member Sessions, and Senator Whitehouse. I am the president, current president of the Association of the Bar of the city of New York, and I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you this evening regarding the nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to be an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

I am joined this evening by Lynn Neuner, who is sitting right behind me, who chaired the Subcommittee of our Executive Committee that conducted the evaluation of Judge Sonia Sotomayor.

As this Committee is aware, the Association of the Bar of the city of New York is one of the oldest bar associations in the country, and since its founding in 1870 has given priority to the evaluations of candidates for judicial office. As far back as 1874, the association has reviewed and commented on the qualifications of candidates for the U.S. Supreme Court.

It is a particular honor for me to participate in this confirmation process for this particular nominee.

In May 1987, our association adopted a policy that directs the Executive Committee, our governing body, to evaluate all candidates for appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court. The Executive Committee has developed an extensive procedure for evaluating Supreme Court nominees, including a process for conducting research, seeking views of persons with knowledge of the candidate, and of our membership of more than 23,000 members of the New York Bar and other bars. We evaluate the information we receive and express a judgment on the qualification of a person nominated to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 2007, the Executive Committee of the association moved to a three-tier evaluation system by including a rating of "Highly Qualified." This is the first time the association has used the three-tier rating for a nominee to the Supreme Court.

In evaluating Judge Sotomayor's qualifications, the association reviewed and analyzed information from a variety of sources. We reviewed more than 700 opinions written by Judge Sotomayor over her 17 years on both the circuit court and the district court. We reviewed her speeches, articles, her prior confirmation testimony, comments received from members of the association and its committees, press reports, blogs, commentaries, and we conducted more than 50 interviews with judicial colleagues, former law clerks, numerous practitioners, as well as an interview with Judge Sotomayor herself.

The Executive Committee, on evaluating the qualifications of Judge Sotomayor, passed a resolution at its meeting on June 30th finding Judge Sotomayor highly qualified to be a Justice of the Supreme Court based upon the committee's affirmative finding that Judge Sotomayor possesses to an exceptionally high degree all of the qualifications enumerated in the association's guidelines for evaluations of nominees to the Supreme Court, and those guide-

lines are: exceptional legal ability, extensive experience and knowledge of the law, outstanding intellectual and analytical talents, maturity of judgment, unquestionable integrity and independence, a temperament reflecting a willingness to search for a fair resolution of each case before the court, a sympathetic understanding of the court's role under the Constitution in the protection of personal rights of individuals, and an appreciation of the meaning of the United States Constitution, including a sensitivity to the respective powers and reciprocal responsibility of Congress and the executive branch.

These guidelines establish a very high standard which, in our opinion, Judge Sotomayor clearly meets. Specifically, the association found that Judge Sotomayor demonstrates a formidable intellect; a diligent and careful approach to legal decision-making; exhibiting a firm respect for the doctrine of judicial restraint, separation of powers, and stare decisis; a commitment to unbiased, thoughtful administration of justice; a deep commitment to our judicial system and the counsel and litigants who appear before the court; and an abiding respect for the powers of the legislative and executive branches of our Government.

We believe Judge Sotomayor will be an outstanding Justice of the United States Supreme Court, and I am very grateful to this Committee for giving me the opportunity to express the views of the Association of the Bar.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Hynes appear as a submission for the record.]

Senator KAUFMAN. Thank you, Ms. Hynes.

Our next witness is Dean JoAnne A. Epps. JoAnne Epps is the dean of the Beasley School of Law at Temple University, and she has taught at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. She is here today to speak on behalf of the National Association of Women Lawyers, where she serves as the Co-Chair of the Supreme Court. Dean Epps, I attended Temple for one course. I am sorry I did not graduate. But I have enjoyed Temple basketball for over 50 years, so I am looking forward to your testimony.

**STATEMENT OF JOANNE A. EPPS, DEAN, TEMPLE UNIVERSITY
BEASLEY SCHOOL OF LAW, ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS**

Ms. EPPS. Thank you very much, Mr. Senator. Senator Kaufman, Senator Sessions, Senator Whitehouse, I am really honored to be here this evening on behalf of the National Association of Women Lawyers, whose president, Lisa Horowitz, is seated behind me as I speak. And we are here today to urge your vote in support of the confirmation of Judge Sotomayor to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

After careful evaluation of Judge Sotomayor's background and qualifications, the National Association of Women Lawyers, NAWL, has concluded that Judge Sotomayor is highly qualified for this position. She has the intellectual capacity, the appropriate judicial temperament, and respect for established law and process needed to be an effective Justice of the Supreme Court. She is mindful of a range of perspectives that appropriately should be considered in rendering judicial decisions and, if confirmed, will clearly dem-