

LEIGH MAY, U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, one of the great honors of being a Member of the Senate is the participation and the confirmation process the Constitution dictates to us on Federal judges and other critical appointees, such as Cabinet members of the President.

I have today a distinct honor and privilege to recommend to all of my colleagues in the Senate a Georgia lawyer who has been nominated by the President of the United States, with the approval of Senator CHAMBLISS and myself, to the Northern District Court of Georgia. Her name is Leigh May. She is an unbelievably exciting, unbelievably knowledgeable, unbelievably accomplished individual.

She graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology, one of the top three engineering schools in the United States of America, with honors, in 1993. Then, in 1998, she graduated from the University of Georgia Law School with a juris doctorate degree, magna cum laude in her class.

From 1998 to 2000, she served as a law clerk to Judge Dudley H. Bowen, Jr., of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia. She is a partner in the Atlanta office of Butler, Wooten & Fryhofer, LLP, one of the leading law firms in our State. Her practice focuses on complex civil litigation in both the State and Federal courts, and she is currently vice chair of the litigation section of the Atlanta Bar Association. Her ABA rating is unanimously very "qualified."

She is a very talented, very deserving person. I thank the President for his nomination. I thank Kathy Ruemmler, who was his leading advisor at the time, for her cooperation in this nomination.

I close my recommendation to my colleagues by telling them this: Please vote for the cloture motion today so we can vote for confirmation tomorrow.

This May, I was asked to address the University of Georgia's graduation ceremony in Athens, GA. After the speech I made, I went back to the dressing room in the green room, and the dean of the law school came up to me and said: I just want you to know, Mr. ISAKSON, you nominated one of the smartest people to ever graduate from the law school of the University of Georgia when you nominated Leigh May.

I can't think of a higher or a better recommendation, and I commend Leigh May to my colleagues of the Senate with my highest recommendation in the hopes that folks will vote today to go to cloture and vote for the confirmation tomorrow to confirm Leigh May to the Northern District of Georgia.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF LESLIE JOYCE ABRAMS TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 856.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Leslie Joyce Abrams, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk that I ask to be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Leslie Joyce Abrams, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie Hirono, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Bill Nelson, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Brian Schatz, Al Franken, Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer, Tom Harkin.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF MARK HOWARD COHEN TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 857.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Mark Howard Cohen, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk—in fact, it is already at the desk—and ask that it be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Mark Howard Cohen, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie K. Hirono, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Bill Nelson, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Brian Schatz, Al Franken, Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer, Tom Harkin.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF ELEANOR LOUISE ROSS TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 858.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Eleanor Louise Ross, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. There is a cloture motion at the desk that I ask to be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented