

and enable families to refinance their expensive loans. To do this, we must certify the quality and content of our mortgage securities and enable those markets working again to create liquidity and lending. This is why it is urgent to create the Federal Board of Certification for mortgage securities. This legislation would create a "good housekeeping seal of approval" for the mortgage security industry and certify that the mortgage products are in fact what they claim to be. Accordingly, I call on Congress to take up and adopt this commonsense amendment as expeditiously as possible.

I encourage my colleagues to strongly support the creation of the Federal Board of Certification. This legislation will restore trust in U.S. financial markets and mortgage securities which will help American businesses and ultimately, most crucially, American families.

NOMINATION OF MICHAEL E. O'NEILL

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I now ask consent that my next remarks be labeled nomination of Michael E. O'Neill for the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SPECTER. I am pleased to submit my very strong recommendation to my colleagues to confirm the nomination of Michael E. O'Neill for the District Court for the District of Columbia. The President submitted his name last Thursday. I had tried to come to the floor to speak at that time but could not do so.

I am pleased to do so now. Michael O'Neill has an extraordinary record. He

graduated summa cum laude from Brigham Young University and received his law degree from Yale Law School. He was editor of the Articles and Book Reviews of the Yale Law Journal; and Articles Editor of the Yale Journal on Regulation.

He served as a law clerk to Judge David Sentelle and clerked for the Supreme Court of the United States for Justice Clarence Thomas.

I ask unanimous consent that his full resume be included in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MICHAEL E. O'NEILL

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Birth: 1962, Wisconsin.

Legal Residence: Maryland.

Education: B.A., summa cum laude, Brigham Young University, 1987; J.D., Yale Law School, 1990—Editor of Articles and Book Reviews, Yale Law Journal; Articles Editor, Yale Journal on Regulation.

Employment: Law Clerk, Honorable David B. Sentelle, United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, 1990–1991; Litigation Counsel, Honors Program, Appellate Section, Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice, 1991–1994; Special Assistant United States Attorney, United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, 1993; Special Counsel, Detailee from Dept. of Justice, Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator Orrin Hatch, 1994–1996; Law Clerk, Honorable Clarence Thomas, United States Supreme Court, 1996–1997; General Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator Orrin Hatch, 1997–1998; Associate Professor of Law, George Mason University School of Law, 1998–present; Commissioner, United States Sentencing Commission, 1999–2005; Chief Counsel and Staff Director, Senate Judiciary Committee, 2005–2007.

Mr. SPECTER. It is especially worthwhile to have Mr. O'Neill confirmed because of the example it sets for people who come to undertake public service.

Mr. O'Neill served on the Judiciary Committee for a protracted period of time. When Senator HATCH was the Chairman, he was special counsel from 1994 to 1996 and general counsel from 1997 to 1998, before he became associate professor of law at George Mason University School of Law; and he served as chief counsel and staff director for the 2 years I served as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

I do not need a resume to tell people how competent he is and how public spirited he is and what an outstanding Federal judge he would make.

There have been quite a number of situations where people working on the Judiciary Committee have gone on to Federal judgeships. I think it is a very healthy thing to have that as a motivation to come for public service. People have come to serve on the Judiciary Committee, leaving jobs making half a million dollars or more for \$100,000. The public service is so important that it is exemplary to give them this recognition to motivate our people to come to take these jobs.

One example I would note is Stephen Breyer, who was special counsel and chief counsel to the Senate Judiciary Committee back in 1980 for then-Chairman TED KENNEDY. Mr. Breyer was then appointed on the First Circuit and is now on the Supreme Court of the United States.

I ask unanimous consent that this table be included in the RECORD showing the movement of people who have served on the Judiciary Committee and the jobs which they have taken in other Federal positions.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Name	Previous position(s)	Senator	Nomination position	Date nominated	Date confirmed
Beryl Howell	General Counsel, U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee	Leahy	U.S. Sentencing Commission	1/9/2007	2/28/2007
Stephen Breyer	Special Counsel, U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee	Kennedy	Judge, First Circuit	11/13/1980	12/9/1980
			(Breyer Later Nominated) Associate Justice, Supreme Court ¹	5/17/1994	8/3/1994
Paul D. Clement	Chief Counsel, U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Federalism and Property Rights	Ashcroft	Solicitor General, Department of Justice	3/14/2005	6/8/2005
Sharon Prost	Chief Counsel	Hatch	Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit	5/21/2001	9/21/2001
Paul Redmond Michel	Counsel/Administrative Assistant	Specter	Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit	12/19/1987	2/29/1988
Randal Ray Rader	Chief Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on the Constitution, 1981–1986 Counsel to U.S. Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, 1981–1988 Chief Counsel/Minority Staff Director, Senate Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Patents, Trademarks and Copyrights, 1987–1988	Hatch	Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit	6/12/1990	8/3/1990
Ralph K. Winter, Jr.	Consultant, U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Separation of Powers (1968–1972)	Ervin	Judge, Second Circuit	11/18/1981	12/9/1981
Emory Sneed	Chief Minority Counsel, U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust and Monopoly (1979–1981)	Thurmond	Judge, Fourth Circuit	8/1/1984	10/4/1984
Dennis W. Shedd	Counsel	Thurmond	Judge, District of South Carolina	10/17/1990	10/27/1990
			Judge, Fourth Circuit		
Edward J. Damich	Chief Intellectual Property, Counsel for the Senate Judiciary Committee	Hatch	(Shedd Later Nominated) Judge, Fourth Circuit	5/9/2001	11/19/2002
Lawrence Baskir	Chief Counsel and Staff Director to the Constitutional Rights Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee	Ervin	Judge, United States Court of Federal Claims	9/29/1998	10/21/1998
Reed O'Connor	Counsel, U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee	Hatch/Cornyn	Judge, Northern District of Texas	6/27/2007	11/16/2007
Terry Wooten	Chief Counsel, U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee	Thurmond	Judge, District of South Carolina	6/18/2001	11/8/2001
Dee Vance Benson	Counsel, U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution, 1984–1986 Chief of staff, U.S. Sen. Orrin Hatch, 1986–1988	Hatch	Judge, District of Utah	5/16/1991	9/12/1991
Kristi DuBose	Chief Counsel (1997–1999)	Sessions	Judge, Southern District of Alabama	9/28/2005	12/21/2005
Henry Michael Herlong	Legislative Assistant	Thurmond	Judge, District of South Carolina	4/9/1991	5/9/1991
Mary McLaughlin	Chief Counsel, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology and Government, Committee on the Judiciary (1995)	Specter	Judge, Eastern District of Pennsylvania	3/9/2000	5/24/2000
Patti Saris	Staff Counsel, U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, 1979–1981	Kennedy	Judge, District of Massachusetts	10/27/1993	11/20/1993
Nora M. Manella	Counsel to the Subcommittee on the Constitution of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee (1976–1978)	Tunney	Judge, Central District of California	3/31/1998	10/21/1998

Name	Previous position(s)	Senator	Nomination position	Date nominated	Date confirmed
Brett Tolman	Counsel	Specter	U.S. Attorney, District of Utah	6/9/2006	7/21/2006
William Walter Wilkins	Legal Assistant	Thurmond	U.S. Attorney, District of South Carolina	5/7/2008	6/4/2008
Bennett William Raley	Chief Counsel, U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Federalism and Property Rights (1995).	Brown	Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science.	5/24/2001	7/12/2001
Anthony Lowe	Senior Legislative Counsel, U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition and Business Rights.	DeWine	Federal Insurance Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency.	3/22/2002	7/25/2002
Lee Sarah Liberman Otis	Chief Counsel, U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration.	Hatch	General Counsel, Department of Energy	4/25/2001	5/24/2001
Jon D. Leibowitz	Chief Counsel and Staff Director, U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust, Business Rights and Competition.	Kohl/Simon	Commissioner, Federal Trade Commission	9/10/2004	11/21/2004
Ray Kethledge	Counsel	Abraham	Judge, Sixth Circuit	3/19/2007	pending

¹ Stephen Breyer's nomination was particularly remarkable because he was nominated by President Carter on November 13, 1980, after Carter had lost the election to Ronald Reagan. Senate Democrats, who had just lost control of the Senate, held a swift confirmation vote on Breyer during a lame duck session on December 9, 1980.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARDIN). The clerk will call the roll. The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. STABENOW). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 3540

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the Senate Finance Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3540 and the Senate proceed to its consideration now; further, that a Baucus substitute at the desk, which is a 6-month FAA extension and a highway trust fund fix, be agreed to, the bill as amended be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table with no intervening action or debate.

I would say, before I hear from my distinguished colleague, the junior Senator from Arizona, that I, of course, would rather be asking consent to finish the whole FAA bill, the complete bill. This is a 6-month extension, which is so important. The Highway Trust Fund is also upside-down. It is out of money. This would extend the FAA bill for 6 months, which is important. There are so many more things in that bill. In fact, I have spoken to the President's Chief of Staff on how important the FAA bill is.

But at this stage we have some problems. So, anyway, we have gone for a 6-month extension and doing something to fix the highway trust fund.

That is what this consent agreement is all about.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. KYL. Madam President, reluctantly, on behalf of Senator DEMINT, I will object at this time. I expect—I know the majority leader has talked with our staff, as well—the issues that are relating to this can be worked out in a relatively—obviously, before the end of this week, we hope.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

TRIBUTE TO BARDSTOWN/ LOUISVILLE ARCHDIOCESE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, this year marks the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Diocese of Bardstown, which was established in Kentucky as one of the oldest dioceses in the country. Pope Pius VII carved it from one of the oldest dioceses in the New World.

The territory of the Bardstown Diocese once covered a giant swath of land, including what are now the States of Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa, Wisconsin, Missouri, and half of Arkansas. The Bardstown Diocese was established alongside the dioceses of Boston, Philadelphia and New York. Its seat was eventually moved to Louisville, Kentucky, and made an archdiocese. But its place in the history of American Catholicism continues to be a point of pride across Kentucky.

Kentuckians celebrate this bicentennial throughout the year at the St. Thomas Church, considered the “Cradle of Catholicism” in the Bluegrass State and still located in Bardstown. A two-story log house that stands on St. Thomas property is the oldest structure related to the Catholic faith in our region of the United States.

Built in 1795 by Thomas and Ann Howard, the property was willed to the church by Mr. Howard in 1810, and it became the first home of the St. Thomas Seminary, the first seminary west of the Alleghenies. It later served as the residence of Bishop Benedict Joseph Flaget, first bishop of the Bardstown Diocese.

Bishop Flaget and others who worked to establish the Bardstown Diocese were pioneers of the land as well as of the spirit. Kentucky was the western frontier of the young United States at that time, and frontier life posed many hardships.

But the diocese survived and thrived, and the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to the United States earlier this year was timed to coincide with its anniversary.

Madam President, Kentucky is proud to include one of the oldest outposts of faith and freedom in America. I ask unanimous consent that a story from the Louisville Courier-Journal about the celebration of the Bardstown Diocese's anniversary be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Louisville Courier-Journal, Apr. 9, 2008]

CATHOLICS CELEBRATE KENTUCKY BICENTENNIAL, BARDSTOWN EVENTS MARK 200 YEARS

(By Peter Smith)

BARDSTOWN, KY.—Dorothy Ballard and her sister Martha Willett have been coming to St. Thomas Church, considered the “cradle of Catholicism” in Kentucky, all their lives.

Their parents were married there in 1920, and “all of the children have been baptized here, made the first Communion here, confirmed here,” and several of them have been buried from the parish, Ballard said.

So they weren't missing yesterday morning's Mass that began a daylong celebration of the bicentennial of the Archdiocese of Louisville, where about 150 people filled the historic brick church.

“I feel real special that I'm part of this celebration,” Ballard said.

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz presided at the Mass.

“We pause and give thanks to the Lord for these 200 years of blessed presence of the church within our Central Kentucky, and we ask the Lord to continue to bless us as we move forward,” he said.

The archdiocese also marked the bicentennial yesterday with services at the Cathedral of the Assumption in downtown Louisville and at the Basilica of St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral in Bardstown.

St. Thomas was chosen to lead off the celebration because the log house that still stands on its property once was the modest capital of frontier Catholicism.

Pope Pius VII created the Diocese of Bardstown on April 8, 1808, along with those in Boston, New York and Philadelphia. Previously, the diocese of Baltimore had covered the entire new American republic.

The Bardstown diocese originally spanned the entire frontier area between the Alleghenies and the Mississippi River, and between the Great Lakes and Tennessee.

The seat of the Bardstown diocese eventually was moved to Louisville, which later became an archdiocese. Its original territory is now divided into more than 40 dioceses across 10 states.

The Rev. Steve Pohl, pastor of St. Thomas, said he and many parishioners trace their roots to those pioneer days, when Catholic families of English descent migrated from Maryland to Kentucky in search of better land. They were served by priests fleeing persecution that followed the French Revolution.

Their settlements in Nelson, Washington and Marion counties gave the region the nickname “the Holy Land,” as attested to by such enduring biblical place names as Holy Cross, Gethsemani and Nazareth.

St. Thomas is home to a recently restored log home, owned by Catholic farmers Thomas and Ann Howard and given to the church as a base for the growing diocese.

The diocese's first bishop, Benedict Joseph Flaget, lived there for several years, and the