

I pay tribute to an individual about whom I don't know a lot personally or of his background or his family. It is a sad thing about the nature of today's busy world in which we don't know people—as I certainly do at home and in hometowns across our country—but I will tell you that the opportunity to be with and experience the conversation and joy that Daryl adds to this place has been a real treat and a wonderful experience for me.

I wish him and his family best wishes in his retirement and thank him for his service to the Senate and to the people of our country.

NOMINATION OF NANCY MORITZ

I rise to tell my colleagues about a nomination we are considering, and I speak in support of Justice Nancy Moritz.

She is currently a supreme court justice on the Kansas Supreme Court, and she is before us today as a nominee to sit on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

I appreciate working with my colleague Senator ROBERTS and those in the White House as we came together to try to find an acceptable and honorable nominee, and I believe we did. I extend my appreciation to Justice Moritz for having agreed to answer the call to serve her country in a new capacity as a member of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals.

She comes today before the Senate and again on Monday as someone who is highly qualified, greatly prepared, and who has the necessary background. Certainly the educational requirements are there, but the experience that she has encountered in her distinguished legal career, both public and private, really adds a dimension to this person and something that I would look for in a member of the tenth circuit.

For the past 4 years she has been a justice on the Kansas Supreme Court. Prior to that she spent 15 years as an attorney in the U.S. attorney's office in our State in both Kansas City and Topeka. Prior to that she had 6 years of experience in private practice as well.

Justice Moritz was raised in a small neighboring town of mine. Her hometown is Tipton. It is in many ways a typical small Kansas town. I know folks in Tipton would tell me how exceptional they are—and I have seen many instances of how true that is—but I know the people of Tipton. I have witnessed their character, their integrity, their work ethic, their kindness, their care and genuine concern for others. That sense of community you attain when you grow up in a town of just a few hundred people is something I think has great benefit in becoming who we are.

I, in some ways, admire the justice for that background and know what that kind of experience means in molding her character as well as her work ethic and how she conducts herself.

She also served for a period of time as a law clerk to Judge Ed Larson. Ed

Larson was a law partner of mine, and he remains a good friend. I called to visit with him about the nomination of Justice Moritz, and I trust his judgment. He not only was a law partner in practice with me—or really I was in practice with him—but he then went to the court of appeals and then was elevated to the Kansas Supreme Court.

Of all the people I have met in life, and certainly many of the attorneys I have met in life and the judges, if you were looking for someone whose opinion and judgment you would trust, Judge Ed Larson is certainly that person. He has made clear to me that Justice Moritz was one of the very best law clerks he ever had, and he believes her to be highly qualified. With his recommendation, my judgment about Justice Moritz was even more increased and enhanced.

Again, I am convinced that her background, growing up the way she did, her experience with Judge Larson and his stamp of approval upon her character and abilities, suggests we have a great person to join the tenth circuit.

I encourage my colleagues to review her qualifications, and I would hope and assume they would reach the same conclusion that I have, that the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals will be well served with this Kansan on it. I look forward to supporting her confirmation, and I ask my colleagues to do the same.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maryland.

NOMINATIONS OF GEORGE HAZEL AND THEODORE CHUANG

Mr. CARDIN. I rise in support of the nominations of George Hazel and Theodore Chuang to be U.S. district judges for the District of Maryland.

Let me say from the beginning that I am very proud of the manner in which Senator MIKULSKI, the senior Senator from Maryland, and I have established a process to review and make recommendations to the President for the vacancies in the U.S. District of Maryland.

We have used a process that we think works. It gets us the most qualified individuals, and these two today are certainly an example of highly qualified individuals who want to be judges for the right reasons. They have a demonstrated track record of public service.

I particularly appreciate their commitment to pro bono. They understand that the courts need to be open to all and that we have a special responsibility as lawyers and as judges to make sure that there is equal access to justice. They understand the appropriate role of a judge in our system to be objective and to carry out the laws of this land.

George Jarrod Hazel received his B.A. cum laude in 1996 from Morehouse College and his J.D. in 1999 from Georgetown University Law Center. He was

nominated to fill the vacancy created by the taking of senior status in May of 2013 by Judge Alexander Williams, Jr.

I might just say Judge Williams had a very distinguished record on the district court.

Mr. Hazel began his legal career in private practice from 1999 to 2004. He then became a government prosecutor as an assistant U.S. attorney in the District of Columbia from 2005 to 2008.

He then joined the Greenbelt, MD, U.S. attorney's office for the District of Maryland. Finally, Mr. Hazel joined the office of the State's attorney for Baltimore City and now serves as the chief deputy State's attorney.

I can attest that being the chief deputy State's attorney in Baltimore City is a demanding position. In his present job, Mr. Hazel helps to oversee 200 prosecutors and 200 support staffers, and he has fought tirelessly to keep our communities safe and make them safer. In fact, he has played a key role in achieving those objectives.

He has demonstrated in his entire career as a lawyer a commitment to public service in each of the positions that he has held. He wants to serve the public, and these are the types of people I would hope we would like to see in our district court.

Mr. Hazel has extensive Federal and State court litigation experience, including civil and criminal matters, as well as jury trials. He has served as a prosecutor, private attorney, and manager of a large legal office.

Mr. Hazel lives in North Potomac with his wife and two children. He is an active member of his community. He is a leader in the Metropolitan Baptist Church of Largo, MD, and in Washington, DC, and has served as a member, trustee, and now as a deacon.

In terms of his pro bono commitment, Mr. Hazel has been president of his church's legal ministry, where he has assisted members of the church, including many who could not afford lawyers, in obtaining legal representation when they are in need.

He also prepares meals at the church and teaches Sunday school classes.

Mr. Chuang was nominated to fill the vacancy created by Judge Roger Titus when he took senior status in January of this year.

Judge Titus had a very distinguished record and continues to have a very distinguished record in our district court.

Mr. Chuang received his J.D. magna cum laude in 1994 from Harvard Law School and his B.A. summa cum laude in 1991 from Harvard University. He began his legal career as a law clerk for Judge Dorothy W. Nelson in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit from 1994 to 1995. From 1995 to 1998, Mr. Chuang served as a trial attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. From 1998 to 2004, Mr. Chuang served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the District of Massachusetts. He spent 3 years in private practice from 2004 to 2007.

He served as a deputy chief investigative counsel for the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform from 2007 to 2009. In 2009 he became the chief investigative counsel for the Committee on Energy and Commerce in the House of Representatives. Mr. Chuang currently serves as deputy chief counsel of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, where he has worked since 2009.

Like Mr. Hazel, Mr. Chuang has devoted his entire professional career to serving the public. He is very much interested in helping this community and, again, he is the type of individual I hope we would all like to see in our district court.

Mr. Chuang has extensive Federal court litigation experience, both civil and criminal cases, including jury trials. He has served in all three branches of government: as clerk, law clerk, congressional investigative counsel, and agency deputy general counsel. The American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary gave him a "well qualified" rating. You can see that he has the type of experience and type of sensitivity to understand the appropriate role of a district court judge.

Mr. Chuang lives in Bethesda with his wife and his two children. He is an energetic member of his community. In terms of his pro bono work, he has served on the board of directors of the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center, a nonprofit legal services organization that serves low-income, limited-English proficient Asian Americans and immigrants in Maryland, Washington, DC, and Virginia, and which provides legal representation and referral services in cases involving domestic violence, family law, immigration law, employment law, and a variety of other areas.

Mr. Chuang also told us that from approximately 2002 to 2003, as president of the Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts, he oversaw and promoted a project of the organization's Community Service Committee to provide a pro bono legal workshop in Boston's Chinatown, at which attorneys provided general information about immigration law, employment law, and other areas of law that may affect the lives of area residents.

He is committed to helping his community, and he has demonstrated that during his entire professional career.

Mr. Chuang's parents emigrated from Taiwan to the United States seeking freedom and opportunity. I would note that if confirmed, Mr. Chuang would not only be the first Asian-American Federal judge in Maryland but also the first Asian-American Federal judge in the Fourth Circuit, covering five States in the Mid-Atlantic and South.

President Obama nominated these two individuals in September of 2013 and the Judiciary Committee held their confirmation hearings in December of 2013. The Judiciary Committee then favorably reported both nominations in January of this year.

I urge the Senate to confirm these very well-qualified nominees and fill these important vacancies to better serve the people of Maryland.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

JUSTICE FOR ALL REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last year, the Senate came together to pass meaningful legislation that was supported by victims of violence, law enforcement, and those committed to working to end domestic and sexual abuse. That bill, the Leahy-Crapo Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, had the support of all Senate Democrats and a majority of Senate Republicans. It cleared the Republican House overwhelmingly and it was signed into law 1 year ago. In a divided Congress, this historic reauthorization was made possible because so many victims and service providers stood together to push for a comprehensive bill.

The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, which I was proud to co-author with Senator MIKE CRAPO, a Republican from Idaho, strengthens protections on campuses, where far too many students have become victims of devastating violence instead of enjoying the wonderful experience of learning and growth that we all wish for our children. Our bill, which was signed into law last year, ensures that college students are informed of the resources available to them if they are victims of sexual assault or stalking, and of their school's planned response to such crimes.

For women like Laura Dunn, these provisions have real meaning. When many skeptics called for a watered-down VAWA bill to make it easier to pass, champions like Ms. Dunn, a courageous survivor of campus sexual assault, urged us to stand strong for all victims. More than 200 survivors of campus violence at 176 colleges and universities joined her in an open letter to Congress calling for the passage of the Leahy-Crapo VAWA bill. People like her made all the difference in our ability to ultimately pass this important legislation.

One year after its enactment, I am heartened that the Obama administration has begun to implement the Leahy-Crapo VAWA bill and that it announced a series of steps that will help colleges and universities meet new requirements contained in the law. This includes stronger reporting requirements and better training for university officials, more coordination be-

tween campus police and local law enforcement, and the implementation of privacy policies to protect the identity of victims. I can remember the horrific scenes I witnessed when I was a prosecutor in Vermont. I can also remember that I never asked a victim about their nationality, immigration status, religion, sexual orientation, or political affiliation. As I have said countless times, a victim is a victim is a victim. Providing a victim with the services they need in a safe and private environment is common sense and I am glad the Obama administration is making the protections Senator CRAPO and I fought for a reality for students across the country.

We cannot stop there, however, and we should be doing even more to protect all victims of crime. That is why I urge my fellow Senators to support the Justice for All Reauthorization Act. This comprehensive and bipartisan legislation was unanimously approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee in October. The Justice for All Reauthorization Act protects victims of crime by providing them with the resources they need and enhancing protections for crime victims. It also helps to prevent and overturn wrongful convictions, and provides law enforcement with the tools and resources necessary to ensure justice for all.

The Justice for All Act reauthorizes the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Reduction Act, which has provided significant funding to reduce the backlog of untested rape kits so that victims need not live in fear while rape kits languish in storage. It also strengthens the Kirk Bloodsworth Post Conviction DNA Testing Grant Program, one of the key programs created in the Innocence Protection Act.

Kirk Bloodsworth was a young man just out of the Marines when he was sentenced to death for a heinous crime that he did not commit. He was the first death row inmate in the United States to be exonerated through the use of DNA evidence. There are certainly others out there like Kirk Bloodsworth now, wrongly convicted, waiting for the day when a DNA test will prove their innocence and set them free. We must never stop trying to improve our imperfect criminal justice system, to bring closure to cases swiftly but accurately, and to correct mistakes when they happen.

The Justice for All Act reauthorizes funding for the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program, which assists laboratories in performing the many forensic tests that are essential to solving crimes and prosecuting offenders.

The Justice for All Reauthorization Act is a bipartisan bill that Senator CORNYN and I introduced nearly 1 year ago. All Senate Democrats support passage of this bill, and it is even cosponsored by the minority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, but it has not passed the Senate because some Senate Republicans object. In the face of this obstruction, some would have us pick