

We, as a matter of practice, very often check in with the judges to make sure they concur in the recommendations that we are going to make to a President about who is going to join them on the bench, so that if there are any problems that we are not aware of, we have a chance to do due diligence. In this case, judges on the court were affirmatively reaching out to Judge DuBose, saying: Please make sure you apply to Senator REED and Senator WHITEHOUSE. We really want you on the court.

This is a very special woman, a very accomplished lawyer, an experienced and proven judge, and I look forward to a strong bipartisan vote for her.

And with that, let me yield to my senior partner in this business of making excellent recommendations to Presidents for judges.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Thank you very much, Senator WHITEHOUSE.

Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of Melissa R. DuBose to be a judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island.

Let me thank my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee for advancing her nomination on a bipartisan vote last week. I would like to particularly thank Senator WHITEHOUSE for his leadership, not just here, but so many times on the Judiciary Committee and in the Senate.

Like Senator WHITEHOUSE, I look forward, in a few minutes, to her confirmation as a district judge. Judge DuBose served with distinction at the State level as an associate judge in the Rhode Island district court. She has proven to be an exceptional jurist with a sterling track record. As a judge, she is known for ensuring proceedings in her courtroom are fair and efficient. She is someone who not only knows the law but understands that her task as a judge is to seek justice.

She will fill the seat being vacated by Judge William E. Smith, who will be taking senior status. Judge Smith is a model of professionalism and integrity. He, along with Rhode Island's other current sitting judges on the Federal district court, as Senator WHITEHOUSE noted, are enthusiastic about the nomination of Judge DuBose.

Indeed, they wrote:

Melissa is an outstanding choice to join the federal bench—she is supremely qualified, her ethics are impeccable, and her temperament is judicious.

That is high praise indeed from a diverse and exceptional group of judges. I share their confidence in Judge DuBose.

She will continue Rhode Island's long and proud tradition of outstanding district court judges, and she will make history in her own right, becoming the first woman of color and the first openly LGBTQ person to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island.

Judge DuBose was born and raised in Providence, not far from where the

U.S. district court is located. She earned both her undergraduate degree and teaching certificate from Providence College. Providence College is a remarkable school. The Dominicans run a tight ship, and they ensure that their students are particularly well prepared.

She worked for 11 years, as Senator WHITEHOUSE said, as a schoolteacher in the Providence Public School system, shaping and inspiring young minds. I can't think of better preparation for presiding over a court than running a classroom in a city like Providence or any other big city. So she has skills that are necessary for being a judge, both temperamentally and intellectually.

Her desire to make her community safer, to give back, to give the young people whom she taught a better chance, inspired her to study law. So, while teaching full time, she attended Roger Williams University School of Law at night and got her J.D. Upon graduation, she worked for the State of Rhode Island, in the attorney general's office. She started in the juvenile division and rose through the ranks and took on new assignments, including criminal arraignments and violation hearings.

After serving in the public sector for several years, she worked as a corporate counsel for Schneider Electric, a Fortune Global 500 company, covering compliance, ethics, and trade.

This is a remarkable woman who taught in a city school, who served in the State attorney general's office, and then went to an international company to deal with issues that are much different than you find in a district court or a school. So her capacity, her breadth of knowledge and experience, and her whole life prepared her so well for this judgeship.

In 2019, then-Governor Gina Raimondo, now our Commerce Secretary, elevated her to the Rhode Island district court. And she demonstrated fairness and impartiality and a sense of fairness in court.

Having served as an attorney and a judge, in the attorney general's office and in the private sector, she has handled both criminal and civil cases in Rhode Island's courts and trade cases that span continents. She is more than ready for elevation to the Federal bench.

Now, her résumé is impressive, and she has received support all across the board, from judges in Rhode Island, from public defenders, from prosecutors, and from State and local law enforcement officials. Like her peers, I am confident that Judge DuBose will serve on the district court with integrity and distinction. She has dedicated her life to public service, and Rhode Island is fortunate that she has once again answered the call to serve.

I urge my colleagues to confirm this exceptionally qualified nominee to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

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

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

The Senator from Maryland.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, first, as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I just want to bring to my colleagues' attention that we need to confirm our diplomats around the world.

Yesterday, I had a chance to meet with General Richardson, our SOUTHCOM Commander, and she told me about the challenges we are having in our own hemisphere because of nominees who have been approved by our committee who are here on the floor but have not been confirmed by the U.S. Senate. So I really just want to underscore the point that, if we are going to be able to have our interests represented around the world, we need to carry out the responsibility of confirming nominees that have gone through the process.

In too many cases, individual Senators have placed holds that require us to deal with cloture, which takes a lot of time. It is our responsibility to act on these nominees, and it is in our national security interest to have a confirmed ambassador in each of these countries.

In many cases, these are career individuals who have given their lives—literally, their professional lives—in service to our country. They deserve to have us act timely on their nomination. I would urge our colleagues to do that.

NOMINATION OF SEAN PATRICK MALONEY

Mr. President, I am pleased that we will shortly be voting on one of those nominees for this very important position, and that is Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney to be Representative to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, known as the OECD.

Given the economic challenges we face today, promoting growth, prosperity, and development has never been more important. I am confident that Congressman Maloney will do just that at the OECD.

He is a veteran lawmaker who has worked on commodity markets, digital assets, and rural development, and, as well, he serves on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

He is committed to using the OECD's research capacity and convening power to lead with our values and counter Beijing's efforts with the Belt and Road Initiative.

He understands that the global economy needs to work for all Americans

and that our small towns need a strong global economy in order to flourish.

I think the greatest compliment I can pay to Congressman Maloney is that I think many of us have heard from many of his colleagues at the House as to how valuable he has been over at the House of Representatives. I particularly want to just mention the conversations I have had with Speaker PELOSI and Congressman HOYER in regards to Congressman Maloney's incredible work in the House of Representatives.

He will do us proud as our Representative at the OECD. I urge my colleagues to confirm his nomination to be the next Representative to the OECD without delay.

With that, Mr. President, I would ask unanimous consent that the vote that is scheduled to start in 2 minutes start immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON DUBOSE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the DuBose nomination?

Mr. CARDIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 90 Ex.]

YEAS—51

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Graham | Peters |
| Bennet | Hassan | Reed |
| Blumenthal | Heinrich | Rosen |
| Booker | Hickenlooper | Sanders |
| Brown | Hirono | Schatz |
| Butler | Kaine | Schumer |
| Cantwell | Kelly | Sinema |
| Cardin | King | Smith |
| Carper | Klobuchar | Stabenow |
| Casey | Lujan | Tester |
| Collins | Markey | Van Hollen |
| Coons | Menendez | Warner |
| Cortez Masto | Merkley | Warnock |
| Duckworth | Murphy | Warren |
| Durbin | Murray | Welch |
| Fetterman | Ossoff | Whitehouse |
| Gillibrand | Padilla | Wyden |

NAYS—47

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Barrasso | Grassley | Paul |
| Blackburn | Hagerty | Ricketts |
| Boozman | Hawley | Risch |
| Braun | Hoeben | Romney |
| Britt | Hyde-Smith | Rounds |
| Budd | Johnson | Rubio |
| Capito | Kennedy | Schmitt |
| Cassidy | Lankford | Scott (FL) |
| Cornyn | Lee | Scott (SC) |
| Cotton | Lummis | Thune |
| Cramer | Manchin | Tillis |
| Crapo | Marshall | Tuberville |
| Cruz | McConnell | Vance |
| Daines | Moran | Wicker |
| Ernst | Mullin | Young |
| Fischer | Murkowski | |

NOT VOTING—2

Shaheen

Sullivan

The nomination was confirmed.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Sean Patrick Maloney, of New York, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided.

Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Maloney nomination?

Mr. CARDIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The result was announced—yeas 63, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 91 Ex.]

YEAS—63

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Gillibrand | Ossoff |
| Bennet | Grassley | Padilla |
| Blumenthal | Hagerty | Peters |
| Booker | Hassan | Reed |
| Brown | Heinrich | Romney |
| Butler | Hickenlooper | Rosen |
| Cantwell | Hirono | Rounds |
| Capito | Kaine | Schatz |
| Cardin | Kelly | Schumer |
| Carper | King | Sinema |
| Casey | Klobuchar | Smith |
| Cassidy | Lujan | Stabenow |
| Collins | Lummis | Tester |
| Coons | Markey | Van Hollen |
| Cortez Masto | Marshall | Vance |
| Cramer | Menendez | Warner |
| Daines | Merkley | Warnock |
| Duckworth | Moran | Warren |
| Durbin | Murkowski | Welch |
| Ernst | Murphy | Whitehouse |
| Fetterman | Murray | Wyden |

NAYS—31

| | | |
|-----------|-------|--------|
| Barrasso | Braun | Cornyn |
| Blackburn | Britt | Cotton |
| Boozman | Budd | Crapo |

| | | |
|------------|----------|------------|
| Cruz | Lankford | Scott (FL) |
| Fischer | Lee | Scott (SC) |
| Graham | Mullin | Thune |
| Hawley | Paul | Tuberville |
| Hoeben | Ricketts | Wicker |
| Hyde-Smith | Risch | Young |
| Johnson | Rubio | |
| Kennedy | Schmitt | |

NOT VOTING—6

| | | |
|-----------|---------|----------|
| Manchin | Sanders | Sullivan |
| McConnell | Shaheen | Tillis |

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 461.

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 legislative clerk read the nomination of Nicole G. Berner, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

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

The 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, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 461, Nicole G. Berner, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Mazie Hirono, Tina Smith, Gary C. Peters, Amy Klobuchar, Raphael G. Warnock, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Mark R. Warner, Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture motion filed today, March 12, be waived.

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