

\$250 million, even though he had no criminal record.

Barrack and Grimes took their fight to a jury trial, and the jury acquitted Barrack on all nine counts. Grimes was acquitted of the two counts against him.

So I would like to share three quotes from that trial.

During the trial, the judge told the government:

I mean, I've had patent cases that I tried involving algorithms that were easier for the jury to figure out than this one is going to be.

Then a further quote from the judge also said, about some of the government's theories in the case, that they "were right in line between barely permissible inference and impermissible speculation."

And then there is the third, and last, quote from an alternate juror, who stated publicly after the verdict:

I thought much of the prosecution's evidence was very misleading and misrepresented the truth.

So that is what you have with political weaponization going on in the American Government.

So now, to sum up, year after year, my investigative work has exposed the overt bias by Federal law enforcement against Republicans. Here, the same political government Agencies were involved in Crosswind, the Barrack case, and Crossfire Hurricane. These cases went nowhere.

My Democratic colleagues never raised a finger about any of these abuses. My Democratic colleagues did the opposite and went on partisan television every day, falsely claiming crimes occurred.

And you can see from what I have said today and what the FBI's statements—the agents' statements—say, that there was no crime. But it appears the real crimes were committed by the Biden-Harris government investigators.

Now, bringing this today, and the responsibility of President Trump's administration, it is clear that this administration has a responsibility to fully investigate these matters.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The Senator from Montana.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 5 minutes before the scheduled rollcall vote.

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

CONFIRMATION OF KATHLEEN S. LANE

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of confirming Katie Lane to serve as the next judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana.

I have known Katie a long time. In fact, she attended kindergarten through 12th grade in my hometown of Bozeman. In fact, we went to the same high school. I was a little ahead of her. We are both Bozeman High Hawks.

She spent her childhood summers skiing, camping, and hiking, which in-

stilled in her a deep and profound love of the Treasure State and the values that truly make it the "Last Best Place."

But then she went on to do even bigger things. She went on to attend George Mason University's Antonin Scalia Law School, where she graduated with highest honors. She then clerked at both the trial and appellate levels of the Federal judiciary for two Federal judges.

She returned to Montana to serve as the deputy solicitor general under Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen, from 2021 to 2023. During her time in Helena, Katie worked zealously to defend Montana's laws and challenge Federal overreach. She litigated cases in both State and Federal courts on issues important to Montanans, including defending the Second Amendment, multiple land use and grazing rights cases, as well as defending Montana's coal industry.

As Montanans know well, Federal judges play a critical role in our daily lives. For many years, we have dealt with an activist judiciary that repeatedly rules against the interests of Montanans. That is why it is essential we pick principled, thoughtful jurists who are committed to upholding the Constitution and making decisions based on the rule of law, not on personal politics or viewpoints.

With this in mind, Senator SHEEHY and I are confident that Katie is the right choice to serve Montana as our next Federal judge. Her values are rooted in Montana and grounded in the Constitution. Katie's distinguished record of public service and experience in both the Federal and State judiciaries makes her well-qualified to serve on the Federal bench. I am confident she will be fairminded; she will be principled; and she will bring honor, decency, integrity and—let's face it—a lot of smarts to the bench.

I cannot recommend Katie highly enough, and I urge my colleagues to vote today to confirm her without delay.

VOTE ON LANE NOMINATION

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, 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. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 132 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Armstrong	Fischer	Moran
Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hawley	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeben	Risch
Budd	Husted	Schmitt
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Collins	Justice	Sheehy
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Lummis	Tuberville
Cruz	Marshall	Wicker
Curtis	McConnell	Young
Daines	McCormick	
Ernst	Moody	

NAYS—46

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Sanders
Baldwin	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Coons	Lujan	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gallego	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	
Hickenlooper	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—2

Bennet Rounds

The nomination was confirmed.

(Mrs. CAPITO assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. SHEEHY assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ARMSTRONG). 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.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

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. 743, Jeffrey M. Kuhlman, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas.

John Thune, Tim Sheehy, Pete Ricketts, Mike Rounds, John Barrasso, Ted Budd, Jim Banks, Rick Scott of Florida, Todd Young, David McCormick, Shelley Moore Capito, Jerry Moran, Jon A. Husted, John Boozman, Mike Crapo, Katie Boyd Britt, Eric Schmitt.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jeffrey M. Kuhlman, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 133 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Armstrong	Fischer	Moran
Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hawley	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeven	Risch
Budd	Husted	Schmitt
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Collins	Justice	Sheehy
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Lummis	Tuberville
Cruz	Marshall	Wicker
Curtis	McConnell	Young
Daines	McCormick	
Ernst	Moody	

NAYS—46

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Sanders
Baldwin	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Coons	Lujan	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Galleo	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	
Hickenlooper	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—2

Bennet Rounds

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 46. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jeffrey M. Kuhlman, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas.

NOMINATION OF JEFFREY M. KUHLMAN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Jeffrey M. Kuhlman to the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas.

Mr. Kuhlman has only practiced law for 9 years, focusing primarily on the defense of government entities and employees.

In one case, Mr. Kuhlman represented five juvenile detention officers who held 17-year-old Cedric Lofton in a prone position for nearly 40 minutes. Cedric, a child in foster care who was experiencing a mental health crisis, went into cardiac arrest and died.

Mr. Kuhlman claimed that the wrongful death suit should be dismissed because Cedric's death was his fault, arguing: "He only died because he was fighting and because he was in an air deficit."

Mr. Kuhlman blamed a minor in the midst of a mental health crisis for his own death. I asked Mr. Kuhlman whether he regretted any arguments he made during this litigation. He responded with an unequivocal, "No."

Of Mr. Kuhlman's top 10 most significant cases, 4 involved representing law enforcement officers accused of using excessive force. In responses to written questions, he confirmed that he has never represented individuals harmed by law enforcement using excessive force.

During his hearing, I asked Mr. Kuhlman about his work representing the Marion County Commission, County Sheriff and a sheriff's deputy in a lawsuit after local law enforcement raided the offices of the Marion County Record and related properties in August 2023.

The incident received national news coverage and raised freedom of press concerns. The county paid the Record's publisher a \$3 million settlement and provided a formal apology.

During his hearing, Mr. Kuhlman said that he worked on several cases he believed received unfair media coverage. In light of these statements and his prior work on the Marion County Record case, I asked Mr. Kuhlman in written questions to identify those cases and explain why he believed the coverage was unfair.

He declined to respond because he felt "it would be improper to comment on news coverage from media outlets because . . . [there] may be instances where media outlets are involved in litigation in the District of Kansas."

Apparently, it is appropriate for Mr. Kuhlman to claim that some of the cases he worked on received unfair media coverage during his hearing, but it is inappropriate for him to identify those cases and explain why he believed the coverage was unfair in written questions. I find this to be conveniently evasive.

For these reasons, I will oppose Mr. Kuhlman's nomination.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:03 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. MOODY).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

VOTE ON KUHLMAN NOMINATION

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

Mrs. BRITT. 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 senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 134 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Armstrong	Fischer	Moran
Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hawley	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeven	Risch
Budd	Husted	Schmitt
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Collins	Justice	Sheehy
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Lummis	Tuberville
Cruz	Marshall	Wicker
Curtis	McConnell	Young
Daines	McCormick	
Ernst	Moody	

NAYS—46

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Sanders
Baldwin	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Coons	Lujan	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Galleo	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	
Hickenlooper	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—2

Bennet Rounds

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). 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 actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, do you remember when the ICE agents were in the city of Chicago? I can't forget it. Things were happening in the city I am honored to represent I had never seen before. We had these people who were kind of in uniform, but not really, wearing masks, carrying guns, and they were pursuing "the worst of the worst." They were looking for rapists, murderers, terrorists, the criminally insane, child predators, on and on. And they certainly were looking for people who came into the United States and didn't have legal immigration status.

They frightened a community in a way that I had never seen before. People in parts of Chicago who had lived there peacefully, quietly, without any problem for years reached the point where they were afraid to go to the grocery store. They stopped going to church. They didn't know what was next for the ICE agents.