

The original documents are located in Box 21, folder “Judicial Appointments - Florida” of the Philip Buchen Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 14, 1975

*Judicial
Appointments*

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHILIP BUCHEN

FROM: DOUGLAS P. BENNETT ~~DPB~~

SUBJECT: U. S. Attorney,
Northern District of Florida

Pursuant to our new clearance procedures for Judicial appointments, I am forwarding to you the proposed Decision Memorandum for the President for the nomination of Nickolas Geeker as the U. S. Attorney for the Northern District of Florida.

Can you please notify Robin West's office (ext. 2981) no later than 5:00 p. m., Monday, November 17. If he has not heard from you by that time, it will be assumed that you do not object to the proposed nomination.

Upon your approval, it shall be sent directly to the President.

KE for PWB Approve _____ Disapprove _____
 O 11/19/75

Attachments



ADDITIONAL JUDGESHIPS

- Q. I understand that additional Federal judgeships have been recommended for Florida, but they haven't been created yet. What has happened?
- A. For several years, the Congress has had pending the recommendation of the Judicial Conference, which I have supported, for additional district court judges throughout the Federal system. This is a critically important bill if the courts are to cope with our ever-increasing caseloads. Unfortunately, the Democratic-controlled Congress has been reluctant to take action. This is a matter of the utmost importance to Floridians. The Administration backed bill (S. 287) was reported out by the Senate Judiciary Committee last fall. This bill would give Florida two additional Federal judges -- one for the Southern District and one for the Middle District. Although this bill has been ready for consideration by the full Senate since last fall the leadership has never brought it to a vote.



Buchen 2/12/76

JUDICIAL VACANCY

Q. We have had a vacancy in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida since September, 1975. When will the vacancy be filled?

A. I am hopeful that this vacancy will be filled in the not too distant future. Until the selection is made, it would be totally inappropriate for me to comment further on any individuals who have been mentioned as potential candidates for appointment.

Note: Senators Stone and Childs are attempting to pressure you into appointing a Democrat, Sydney Aronovitz, to this vacancy. Republican personnel within the state have been supporting a Stephen Booher who recently failed to pass ABA muster. White House Personnel is now in the process of clearing a Mr. John H. Moore, a Republican



For filing

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 15, 1976

MEMO FOR: PHIL BUCHEN
FROM: KEN LAZARUS *K*
SUBJECT: Kovachevich Nomination

As you will recall, Senators Chiles and Stone sometime back established a judicial selection commission within the state of Florida subject to their direction and control. Since that time, they have been attempting to block the selection of any Republican nominees to the district court there which are not satisfactory to the commission.

In the past Senators have not used their "blue slip" power to defeat judicial nominees solely on the basis of political affiliation. The Kovachevich nomination should test this current rule. She was found to be "qualified" by the ABA.



the same thing soon

Q Ron, on the Elizabeth Kovachevich nomination, why is the President bypassing Florida's Judicial Selection Commission?

MR. NESSEN: I didn't know he had.

Q She did not go through that commission, the selecting process.

MR. NESSEN: I don't know whether that is true or not but I can look into it for you.

Q Is he aware that neither Florida Senator intends to sign the blue slip on that nomination?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know the background on that nomination but I can check for you.

MORE

#506

→ Ken: Please check on this issue
& let me know.
P.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 28, 1976

Handwritten signature/initials

MEMORANDUM FOR: DOUGLAS BENNETT

FROM: PHIL BUCHEN *P.*

Attached is a letter from Henry F. Martin of Jacksonville, Florida, sent to a friend of Jim Cannon who in turn forwarded it to me. The letter relates to the position of United States District Judge for the Jacksonville Division of the Middle District of Florida.

Attachment



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

10/22/76

TO: PHIL BUCHEN

FROM: JIM CANNON *pb*

FYI. This is from a friend
of mine who is President of
The Family Lines System
railroad.

From the desk of---
Prime F. Osborn

1976 OCT 20 PM 12 27
Jim:

5

The attached is self-explanatory.

Thank you so much.

10/18/76

Prime

R. FORD LE...

CHAMBERS OF
HENRY F. MARTIN, JR.
CIRCUIT JUDGE
208 DUVAL COUNTY COURTHOUSE
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202

October 15, 1976

Honorable Prime F. Osborn
The Family Lines System
500 Water Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

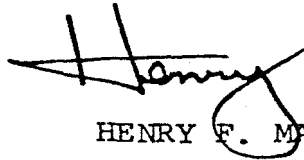
Dear Prime:

Enclosed is a copy of an endorsement which I was fortunate enough to receive from a number of the past presidents of the Jacksonville Bar Association. This endorsement was in progress at the time of the newspaper report that the Senators planned to recommend Judge Howell Melton for Judge Scott's vacancy. The endorsement is broad enough to cover any existing or future vacancies.

If the opportunity presents itself, it may be helpful for you to send a copy to your contact on the President's staff. I plan to furnish a copy to the two Senators so that it will be in my file in the event of any further consideration I might receive.

Thanks again for your help.

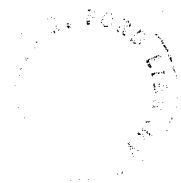
Sincerely,



HENRY F. MARTIN, JR.

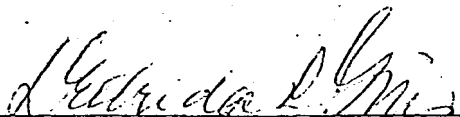
HFMJr/llr


Encl.



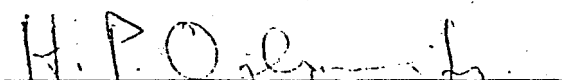
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

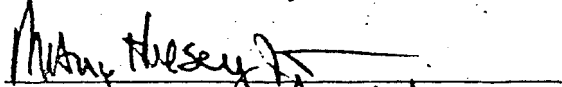
We, the undersigned past presidents of the Jacksonville Bar Association, highly recommend and enthusiastically endorse Henry F. Martin, Jr., as being exceptionally well-qualified to hold the position of United States District Judge for the Jacksonville Division of the Middle District of Florida.


DELBRIDGE L. GIBBS


JOHN S. DUSS, III


DAVID W. FOERSTER

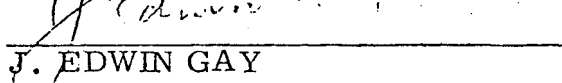

H. P. OSBORNE, JR.


MARK HULSEY, JR.


CLARK W. TOOLE, JR.


NATHAN H. WILSON


EARL B. HADLOW*


J. EDWIN GAY


JAMES L. ADE


JAMES E. COBB

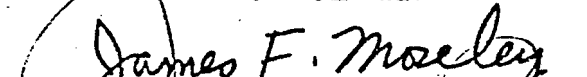

W. E. GRISSETT, JR.

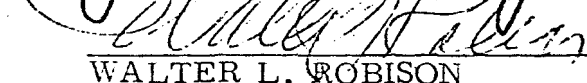

ADAM G. ADAMS, II


JAMES C. RINAMAN, JR.


JOHN M. McNATT, JR.


JAMES M. McLEAN


JAMES F. MOSELEY


WALTER L. ROBISON
(President-Elect)

* The Rules of the Federal Judicial Nominating Commission prohibit members from endorsing any candidates appearing before that body.

