



To: WSW Clients
FROM: WSW Team
DATE: January 10, 2017

On January 10, 2017, Senator Sessions appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee for his confirmation hearing to serve as the Attorney General of the United States. This is a summary report through 4pm today, and another day of testimony is expected tomorrow.

HIGHLIGHTS/KEY POINTS:

This was the first hearing on a Trump nominee. While it was respectful in tone, clear lines on key issues were highlighted between the Republican and Democrat Members of the Committee. These issues are elucidated below.

NOMINEE INFORMATION & LINK TO TESTIMONY

[Chairman Chuck Grassley's opening statement](#)

[Ranking Member Patrick Leahy's opening statement](#)

[Senator Sessions' opening statement](#)

MEMBER INTERESTS

- Hatch (R-UT) obscenity laws, Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), Prisons, Religious freedom
- Leahy (D-VT) hate crimes, VAWA
- Graham (R-SC) muslim ban, online poker, constitutionality of Obama immigration executive orders, what to do with DREAMERS in US
- Durbin (D-IL) nonviolent offenders, immigration
- Cornyn (R-TX) respect for law enforcement
- Whitehouse (D-RI) immigration, tobacco lawsuits, cybersecurity
- Lee (R-UT) role of special prosecutors
- Klobuchar (D-MN) international adoption, sex trafficking, law enforcement (non specified), drug courts, voting rights, cyber attacks by Russia, freedom of press

- Sass (R-NE) role of executive orders, immigration, Congressional and Executive outreach, role of Solicitor General
- Franken (D-MN) questioned accuracy of Sessions' claims on his record on desegregation cases
- Flake (R-AZ) immigration, victim's rights, prison rape
- Coons (D-DE) record on treatment of prisoners, hitching posts. torture
- Cruz (R-TX) first amendment rights, IRS targeting of taxpayers, directly repudiated Franken's attack on Session's record as AG
- Blumenthal (D-CT) gun violence, noting many recent victims who were police officers. Asked if Sessions would recuse himself from voting on other nominees; abortion/Operation Rescue endorsement
- Crapo (R-ID) targeting of industries by Obama Justice Dept (firearms dealers, pay day lenders, etc) regulatory overreach, cooperation with states
- Hirono (D-Hawaii) abortion, immigration, racial profiling in terms of immigration policy
- Lee, again. Use of guidance documents for legal interpretations. Role of department in mergers and acquisition, antitrust policies.
- Leahy, again. NSA collection of private information. Sexual harassment, Trump's actions. Will there be litmus test on DOJ staff who have worked on civil rights of marijuana. Leahy noted AL state law on marijuana and what he perceived as Session's extreme views.
- Lee, again. On Federalism. Limited purpose federal government not general purpose. Drift away from this principle.
- Durbin, again. On Comey and Russia. Followup on earlier Clinton prosecution recusal. Would Sessions do same if there is investigation on Trump campaign. Refugees.
- Hatch, again. Listed organizations supporting nominee including law enforcement organizations
- Feinstein, again. Immigrants, refugees.

Some Inside the Beltway Press Coverage of Hearing

<http://www.politico.com/story/2017/01/jeff-sessions-confirmation-hearing-233394>

<http://www.politico.com/story/2017/01/jeff-sessions-confirmation-hearings-updates-analysis-233402>

<http://www.politico.com/story/2017/01/jeff-sessions-views-attorney-general-233383>

<http://www.thehill.com/homenews/senate/313509-sessions-pledges-to-recuse-himself-from-clinton-investigations>

<http://www.rollcall.com/news/policy/sessions-appeals-fellow-senators-confirmation>