

Table 1.82.2010

Characteristics of Presidential appointees to U.S. District Court judgeships

By Presidential administration, 1963-2010^a

	President Johnson's appointees 1963-68 (N=122)	President Nixon's appointees 1969-74 (N=179)	President Ford's appointees 1974-76 (N=52)	President Carter's appointees 1977-80 (N=202)	President Reagan's appointees 1981-88 (N=290)	President George H.W. Bush's appointees 1989-92 (N=148)	President Clinton's appointees 1993-2000 (N=305)	President George W. Bush's appointees 2001-2008 (N=261)	President Obama's appointees 2009-2010 (N=44)
Sex									
Male	98.4%	99.4%	98.1%	85.6%	91.7%	80.4%	71.5%	79.3%	45.5%
Female	1.6	0.6	1.9	14.4	8.3	19.6	28.5	20.7	54.5
Race_ethnicity									
White	93.4	95.5	88.5	78.2	92.4	89.2	75.1	81.6	59.1
Black	4.1	3.4	5.8	13.9	2.1	6.8	17.4	6.9	25.0
Hispanic	2.5	1.1	1.9	6.9	4.8	4.0	5.9	10.0	4.5
Asian	0	0	3.9	0.5	0.7	0	1.3	1.5	11.4
Native American	NA	NA	NA	0.5	0	0	0.3	0	0
Education_undergraduate									
Public-supported	38.5	41.3	48.1	55.9	37.9	46.0	44.3	47.1	45.5
Private (not Ivy League)	31.1	38.5	34.6	34.2	48.6	39.9	42.0	45.2	40.9
Ivy League	16.4	19.6	17.3	9.9	13.4	14.2	13.8	7.7	13.6
None indicated	13.9	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Education_law school									
Public-supported	40.2	41.9	44.2	52.0	44.8	52.7	39.7	49.0	45.5
Private (not Ivy League)	36.9	36.9	38.5	31.2	43.4	33.1	40.7	39.1	31.8
Ivy League	21.3	21.2	17.3	16.8	11.7	14.2	19.7	11.9	22.7
Occupation at nomination or appointment									
Politics or government	21.3	10.6	21.2	5.0	13.4	10.8	11.5	13.4	11.4
Judiciary	31.1	28.5	34.6	44.6	36.9	41.9	48.2	48.3	52.3
Law firm, large	2.4	11.2	9.6	13.9	17.9	25.7	16.1	18.8	13.6
Law firm, medium	18.9	27.9	25.0	19.3	19.0	14.9	13.4	10.0	13.6
Law firm, small	23.0	19.0	9.6	13.9	10.0	4.7	8.2	6.1	4.5
Professor	3.3	2.8	0	3.0	2.1	0.7	1.6	1.1	2.3
Other	0	0	0	0.5	0.7	1.4	1.0	2.3	2.3
Occupational experience^b									
Judicial	34.4	35.2	42.3	54.0	46.2	46.6	52.1	52.1	54.5
Prosecutorial	45.9	41.9	50.0	38.1	44.1	39.2	41.3	47.1	47.7
Other	33.6	36.3	30.8	31.2	28.6	31.8	28.9	24.9	29.5
Political party									
Democrat	94.3	7.3	21.2	91.1	4.8	6.1	87.5	8.0	88.6
Republican	5.7	92.7	78.8	4.5	91.7	88.5	6.2	83.1	0
Independent or none	0	0	0	4.5	3.4	5.4	5.9	8.8	11.4
Other	NA	NA	NA	0	0	0	0.3	0	0
American Bar Association rating									
Exceptionally well/well qualified	48.4	45.3	46.1	51.0	53.5	57.4	59.0	70.1	75.0
Qualified	49.2	54.8	53.8	47.5	46.6	42.6	40.0	28.4	25.0
Not qualified	2.5	0	0	1.5	0	0	1.0	1.5	0

Note: These data were compiled from a variety of sources. Primarily used were questionnaires completed by judicial nominees for the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, transcripts of the confirmation hearings conducted by the Committee, and personal interviews. Other sources of demographic and background data included newspaper articles and various resources online or on the Internet.

Law firms are categorized according to the number of partners/associates: 25 or more associates for a large firm, 5 to 24 associates for a medium firm, and 4 or less for a small firm.

The American Bar Association's (ABA) ratings are assigned to candidates after investigation and evaluation by the ABA's Standing Committee on Federal Judiciary, which considers prospective Federal judicial nominees only upon referral by the U.S. Attorney General or at the request of the U.S. Senate. The ABA's Committee evaluation is directed primarily to professional qualifications--competence, integrity, and judicial temperament. Factors including intellectual capacity, judgment, writing and analytical ability, industry, knowledge of the law, and professional experience are assessed. Prior to President George H.W. Bush's administration, the ABA's Standing Committee on Federal Judiciary utilized four ratings: exceptionally well qualified, well

qualified, qualified, and not qualified. Starting with that administration, the ABA Standing Committee on Federal Judiciary dropped its "exceptionally well qualified" rating and "well qualified" became the highest rating. Nominees who previously would have been rated "exceptionally well qualified" and nominees who would have been rated "well qualified" now receive the same rating. The "exceptionally well qualified" and "well qualified" categories have been combined for all administrations' appointees, and therefore figures prior to President George H.W. Bush's administration may differ from previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. Some data have been revised by the Source and may differ from previous editions of SOURCEBOOK.

^a Percents may not add to 100 because of rounding.

^b Percents will add to more than 100 because some appointees have had more than one type of previous experience.

Source: Sheldon Goldman, "Reagan's Judicial Legacy: Completing the Puzzle and Summing Up," *Judicature* 72 (April-May 1989), pp. 321, 322, Table 2; and Sheldon Goldman et al., "Obama's Judiciary at Midterm: The Confirmation Drama Continues," *Judicature* 94 (May-June 2011), p. 296. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.