

RELEASE IN PART B6

**From:** Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 18, 2010 2:36 AM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: good news and next steps

See b/l traffic

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**From:** Ann O'Leary [redacted]  
**To:** Mills, Cheryl D  
**Sent:** Thu Nov 18 02:14:39 2010  
**Subject:** Re: good news and next steps

B6

Hi Cheryl -

I think we are in good shape right now so I won't bug you. We'll know more by Friday - when we learn whether Reid files the cloture on Goodwin this week or whether he is waiting to file it until after Thanksgiving.

I'll keep you posted.

Thanks so much for all or your support!!

xxoo.

On Wed, Nov 17, 2010 at 1:46 PM, Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov> wrote:  
Great news

My work cell is [redacted]

I will try you tonite

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**From:** Ann O'Leary [redacted]  
**To:** Mills, Cheryl D  
**Sent:** Wed Nov 17 14:28:38 2010  
**Subject:** good news and next steps

Hi Cheryl -

Goodwin is in DC and met with Reid's staff. It looks like he is really going to go ahead and file cloture!! See also the article from the BLT today.

Goodwin also met with Feinstein, which was a difficult meeting. If you have time, I'd like to confidentially discuss with you. I can set my alarm to get up and talk to you at 6 or 6:30 a.m. in the morning your time if that is the best time to reach you. Are you still at [redacted]

Thanks!

xxoo,

Ann

The BLT: The Blog of the Legal Times .

**November 17, 2010**

<http://legaltimes.typepad.com/blt/2010/11/democrats-plan-votes-on-controversial-nominees-senator-says.html>

### **Democrats Plan Votes on Controversial Nominees, Senator Says**

President Barack Obama's nominees for the federal judiciary have stalled for months in part because of heated disagreement over a handful of nominees. Now, Senate Democrats are looking at forcing votes on four of them.

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) said today that Democrats could move soon to end debate on the nominees. He said that Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) was lining up support this morning for what's known as a cloture petition — the necessary paperwork before holding a vote to end debate.

“He’s lining up the signatures,” Whitehouse said after a meeting of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Such a petition requires 16 signatures.

Whitehouse is a vocal supporter of one of the nominees who have drawn fire: John McConnell Jr., a Motley Rice partner who’s been nominated for federal district court in Rhode Island. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is opposing McConnell’s nomination, citing his work as a plaintiffs’ lawyer on lead paint litigation and other cases.

The other three nominees whom Reid is trying to force votes on, Whitehouse said, are Goodwin Liu for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, Edward Chen for the Northern District of California and Louis Butler for the Western District of Wisconsin. Republicans have targeted all three because of what they call the nominees’ extreme views, while the nominees’ home-state senators and other supporters argue they’re being treated unfairly.

A fifth nominee whom Republicans oppose, Judge Robert Chatigny for the 2nd Circuit, is pending before the Senate Judiciary Committee. A committee vote is planned for Thursday.

Though senators have many other priorities during their “lame duck” session, Whitehouse said he thinks there is time to consider the stalled nominees. Otherwise, he said, “there’d be no point getting the signatures” for the cloture petition.

Senate rules require 60 votes to end debate on a nominee or a bill, unless senators agree to waive a vote entirely. Democrats control 59 Senate seats until January.

On Monday, conservatives sent a letter to Reid asking him not to force votes on any nominees between the midterm elections and the start of the next Congress. “Any ‘lame-duck’ confirmations would be a gross abuse of Congressional authority in a last gasp attempt to perpetuate an agenda that the American people have already rejected,” the letter says.

Posted by David Ingram on November 17, 2010 at 01:10 PM in [Other Courts](#), [Politics and Government](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#) | [TrackBack \(0\)](#)