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In Case You Missed It: Bruce Harris Deserves "Fair Hearing"

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From *The Record*

Editorial
May 24, 2012

"Not So Fast. Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee should not dismiss state Supreme Court nominee Bruce Harris before questioning him. ...

"There are now two open spots, [Justice John] Wallace's and that of Justice Virginia Long, who retired in February. First Assistant State Attorney General Philip Kwon was nominated to take one. He's gone. Harris is up for another. The state needs the full complement of Supreme Court justices. The Democrats, who have the majority on the Judiciary Committee, need to go into the hearings with open minds. ...

"The Harris nomination will come before the committee in a week's time, and there are rumblings the eight Democrats on the committee have problems with Harris' résumé – namely that he hasn't spent professional time inside a courtroom. Democrats hold Harris' future in their hands.

"Harris may not be qualified. Or he may be. He needs to be properly vetted before anyone can make that call. Should Harris make it to the state Supreme Court, he will be the first openly gay justice. But that isn't a reason to approve him. Nor that he would be the only black justice. He must be judged on his merits. But to do that, Harris needs to be given a fair hearing. And if he's rejected, it must be for a good reason. 'Lack of experience' isn't a good reason. Especially before Harris has even been given the chance to speak."

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