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## Gov. Christie on Supreme Court Nominations: We Continue To Find Common Ground

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

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Gov. Christie on Supreme Court Nominations: We Continue To Fi...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5LRRFdbf-0>

### Transcript:

**Governor Christie:** As all of you know, we have had a really vigorous and at times heated discussion about nominations to the Supreme Court over the course of the last four and a half years. And during that period of time we have traded opinions and traded disagreements and during that entire period of time though, one of the things that we don't talk a lot about publicly but has been going on, on and off all during those four and a half years was an effort by myself and the Senate President to find common ground in places where we could and to reach compromise in places where we could. I think that has symbolized our relationship on a whole host of issues over the last four and a half years and it continues to now. We found that common ground with Anne Paterson, we found that common ground with Justice Fernandez-Vina. And today we find that common ground with Chief Justice Rabner and with Judge Solomon. In the end, I have expressed very clearly my disagreements with this court and I have expressed very clearly at times disagreements that I've had with individual opinions of the court and I'll continue to do so. Because I believe I have a first amendment right to do it and I think I have an obligation to do it as Governor of New Jersey when I believe that my opinions need to be expressed to explain what public policy is all about and the impact the court has on public policy. That being said though, there was I don't think a louder or stronger voice seven years ago for Stuart Rabner to become the Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court. And over the last seven years that I've watched him be the Chief Justice, my respect for him has never been diminished. I've disagreed with him and I've expressed that publicly. But never have I thought that he hasn't run the courts in a fair, effective and efficient manner. Never have I thought that he's brought any bias or partisanship to his execution of his duties as Chief Justice and never have I thought that he wasn't eminently qualified to be the Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court and so while there's been much speculation about all of this from people who don't know anything about what I'm really thinking, I'm really pleased to be here today and to be placing his name and nomination for tenure as Chief Justice of the court. We have known

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each other for 13 years and I have come to respect him over that period of time and to also consider him a friend. And so I am happy that we're able to move forward with his nomination and I urge the Senate to give him swift consideration and confirmation. I have known Judge Lee Solomon for a bit longer than that and he has served this state in many, many different capacities, as an elected official at the local, county and state level, as an appointed official in my cabinet as the President of the BPU and twice as a Judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey, now as the Assignment Judge in Camden County. There is no one I've met in public life who is a more universally well liked and well respected person than Judge Lee Solomon and he is that because he brings to every job he has open-mindedness, enthusiasm, fairness and a love of his work. All of those things, along with his intellect, his decisiveness and his ability to work with others will serve him and the state extraordinarily well on the New Jersey Supreme Court and so I'm glad to have the opportunity to nominate someone that I know so well for a position that I consider to be so important.

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