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Finally, Vote Expected on Nomination of Judge Restrepo For 3rd Circuit Vacancy

PENNSYLVANIA – In the fall of 2014, Senators Toomey and Casey [enthusiastically supported the White House’s nomination](#) of Federal District Court Judge Restrepo to an open seat on the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals. This afternoon, well over a year later, Judge Restrepo is finally expected to be confirmed to the Third Circuit.

The Why Courts Matter – PA coalition has been calling for Senator Pat Toomey to demand GOP Senate leadership hold a full confirmation vote for Pennsylvania Judge Luis Felipe Restrepo to fill a critical vacancy on the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals for more than a year, and despite Senator Toomey’s recent claims that he has been “[putting aside partisanship in PA](#),” his own obstructionism remains the primary reason such a highly qualified judge’s nomination has been held up for so long that it was declared a judicial emergency.

“The nomination process for Judge Restrepo has dragged on, with delay after delay from Senator Toomey and his GOP colleagues. There is no question that Senator Toomey did a disservice to his constituents by not pressuring GOP leadership to bring up Judge Restrepo’s nomination sooner for a full vote in the Senate,” said Christine Stone, co-chair of the Why Courts Matter – PA coalition.

As reported in [numerous stories](#), it was Toomey who allowed Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley to delay Restrepo’s confirmation hearing for seven months, and it was Toomey who then allowed Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to delay Restrepo’s floor vote for another six months. Restrepo should have been confirmed months ago, and the only reason he wasn’t is the very political gamesmanship Toomey likes to imply he avoids.

“The WCM-PA coalition is thrilled that Judge Restrepo, the the first Hispanic judge from Pennsylvania to ever serve on this appellate court and only the second Hispanic judge to serve on the Third Circuit, will finally get the opportunity to serve, but remains disappointed in the misleading rhetoric and purposeful obstruction in which Senator Toomey continues to engage. It’s a disservice both to his Pennsylvania constituents, and to the constitution he professes to protect,” continued Stone.

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Why Courts Matter - PA is a coalition of organizations and advocates who have come together to ensure that our federal courts work to the benefit of all Americans in keeping with the core constitutional values of liberty, equality and justice for all. WCM-PA supports an appointment and confirmation process that identifies and provides timely confirmation votes for well-qualified nominees for federal judgeships who are dedicated to fairness and impartiality. Learn more about WCM-PA [here](#).