

County in Midland, MI. He received his J.D. from the University of San Diego School of Law in 1979 and his B.A. from Albion College in 1976, where he graduated cum laude.

After graduating from law school, Judge Ludington worked as an associate and then as a shareholder-partner at a private law firm. At that firm, Judge Ludington's practice covered a range of commercial issues, including banking, securities, bankruptcy, the uniform commercial code, and employment law. He served as president of the firm for 6 years.

In 1995, Judge Ludington was elected to a 6-year term on the 42nd Circuit Court of Michigan. In 1999, he was appointed to the position of chief judge, in which he as served with distinction.

Judge Ludington is a member of several State and local bar associations and belongs to numerous professional and community organizations. For example, since assuming the bench, he has helped organize the Midland Alliance for Justice, a foundation for the local bar association that provides legal representation to indigent parties.

The American Bar Association rated Judge Ludington unanimously "well qualified" to serve as a Federal judge.

Sean Cox earned his B.A. from the University of Michigan and his J.D. from the Detroit College of Law in May 1983. In his 20-year legal career, Judge Cox has had experience in both private practice and on the bench. Judge Cox began practicing law in April 1984 as an associate attorney with a private law firm and worked for 12 years in the areas of medical malpractice, products liability, and complex litigation.

Cox left private practice in March 1996 to serve as judge of the Circuit Court for the Third Judicial Circuit in Wayne County, MI. Judge Cox has also served in various professional organizations and has frequently provided free legal services through a legal aid clinic his law firm established at St. Anne's Catholic Church in Detroit.

The American Bar Association has also rated Judge Cox Unanimously "well qualified" to serve as a Federal judge.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

The Senator from New Jersey is recognized.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I endorse the nominations of the people under consideration, Noel Hillman and Peter Sheridan, to be Federal judges on the U.S. District Court of New Jersey. Both of these candidates are outstanding attorneys and are well qualified to assume the position on the bench.

The Senate has recently confirmed two nominees for this court—Judge Susan Wigenton and Renee Bumb. Today I hope this body will resoundingly approve these two additional nominees for the District of New Jersey.

Noel Hillman recently served as the Chief of the Public Integrity Section at the Department of Justice, leading a team of 30 attorneys who investigate and prosecute public corruption cases nationwide.

Mr. Hillman has a reputation for taking on crimes that undermine public confidence in our political system—no matter how political or controversial. He steps up to the task and does it well.

Before he went to the Justice Department, Mr. Hillman served as Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office in New Jersey and as Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Fraud and Public Protection Division.

His work has not escaped recognition. He received the Attorney General's Award for Fraud Prevention in 2004, the Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys Director's Award in 1996 and 1999, and the Department of Justice Superior Performance Award in 1997.

I am also proud to note that Mr. Hillman was educated in New Jersey, graduating from Monmouth College and Seton Hall Law School.

Mr. President, Peter Sheridan has also been nominated for the District Court of New Jersey, and his resume shows his vast legal experience and knowledge.

Like Mr. Hillman, Peter Sheridan is the product of a New Jersey education. Mr. Sheridan also graduated from Seton Hall Law School, as well as receiving his undergraduate degree from St. Peter's College.

Both of these people know New Jersey well and are part of the culture and character of New Jersey. We are delighted that they are going to accede to the bench if approved here, as we expect.

Mr. Sheridan has spent the last decade as a named partner at Graham, Curtin & Sheridan in Trenton, NJ. Prior to that he worked in private practice at other law firms, and has a strong record of public service.

He served as director of the Authorities Unit for the State of New Jersey, vice president and general counsel of the Atlantic City Casino Association, and an attorney with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Mr. President, I note that if the Senate approves these two nominees, then this year alone we will have confirmed New Jersey nominees for the Supreme Court, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, and the District Court of New Jersey.

I hope the good working relationship that allowed this accomplishment will continue for the remaining vacancy on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and for future nominations.

I had the honor of introducing Mr. Hillman and Mr. Sheridan to the Judiciary Committee, and today I am proud to endorse their confirmation. I urge my colleagues to support them as well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey, Mr. MENENDEZ, is recognized.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the nominations of Peter G. Sheridan and Noel Lawrence Hillman to serve as United States District Judges for the District of New Jersey.

The confirmation of a judge to a lifetime appointment is a vital responsibility given to this body by the Constitution, and one that I take very seriously.

That is why I am pleased that our final two nominees from the package of four from New Jersey have come before the Senate today. Each of the four was favorably reported by the Judiciary Committee back in April. Their confirmation would be a testament to the cooperation and collaborative effort between the Senators from New Jersey, the Senate Judiciary Committee, and the White House.

When we work together to select qualified, independent, and diverse judges, we can fill these positions expeditiously and work in a bipartisan manner that benefits not only the State of New Jersey, but also our Nation.

Both nominees before us today are graduates of Seton Hall School of Law in Newark, NJ, and both possess undergraduate degrees from our shared State.

Mr. Sheridan attended my own alma mater, St. Peter's College, and was honored as Alumnus of the Year in 2003, an honor that I'm still hoping to receive one day. He has been in private practice with Graham, Curtin, and Sheridan for the past 11 years and is currently a shareholder and director of the firm. Mr. Sheridan is an experienced trial lawyer, appearing on numerous occasions before the very court to which he is now nominated. I am confident that his years of experience before State and Federal courts will serve him well on the Federal bench.

The final nominee in our package is Noel Lawrence Hillman. Mr. Hillman is a graduate, cum laude, from Monmouth University in Long Branch, NJ. In addition to his law degree, he also has a masters in law from New York University. Mr. Hillman served as an Assistant U. S. Attorney for nearly a decade before becoming Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division.

Most recently, he worked as the Chief of the Public Integrity Section at the U.S. Department of Justice, where he spearheaded the Government's case against Jack Abramoff. Mr. Hillman has twice received the Director's Award, the highest award given to an assistant U.S. attorney, and in 2004 received the Attorney General's Award for Fraud Prevention. The American Bar Association has rated Mr. Hillman as "well qualified" for this position and I must concur with that assessment.

There truly is no higher calling than the calling of public service. That is why I am so pleased to see people of this quality who are willing to serve our Nation in the administration of justice.