

[ERRATA]

S. HRG. 102-1084, Pt. 4

**NOMINATION OF JUDGE CLARENCE THOMAS TO
BE ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME
COURT OF THE UNITED STATES**

HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

UNITED STATES SENATE

ONE HUNDRED SECOND CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

**THE NOMINATION OF CLARENCE THOMAS TO BE ASSOCIATE JUSTICE
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES**

—————
OCTOBER 11, 12, AND 13, 1991
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Part 4 of 4 Parts

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Material in this publication was inadvertently omitted from S. Hrg. 102-1084, part 4, "Nomination of Judge Clarence Thomas to be Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States."

This publication is intended to supplement that record.

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ERRATA

In the nomination hearing of Judge Clarence Thomas to be Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, held October 13, 1991, published by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, some pages were inadvertently omitted from being printed.

These omitted pages are printed in this publication and would have appeared in S. Hrg. 102-1084, part 4, p. 346, after the fifth line.

The material is reproduced here to provide a complete record of proceedings.

* * * * *

Three, Anita Hill has asserted the Department of Education was going to be abolished and that was one factor in her decision to accept a position with Clarence Thomas at the EEOC.

Well, at that same time, there was much discussion in Congress about the abolition of EEOC, as well. It was seriously suggested that title VII enforcement functions and Age Act responsibilities be redistributed to other agencies of the Federal Government, and that the Commission, itself, should be abolished. Anyone involved with the confirmation proceedings of Clarence Thomas to the EEOC Chairmanship, as Anita Hill was, surely would have been aware of this.

I have known Clarence Thomas in times of his darkest moments, and in his shining triumphs. I have had a role in most of his confirmation battles, none of which have ever been easy. In that capacity, I have been privy to the most intimate details of his life. In all that time, never, never has anyone raised allegations such as Anita has.

Clarence Thomas, whom I admire and greatly respect, is a fine and decent man. He does not deserve this savaging of his character, of his reputation, of his honor. He does not deserve this.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, very much, Ms. Myers.

The Chair yields to the Senator from Vermont.

Senator LEAHY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, what is the—

The CHAIRMAN. We will work the way we did in the past. We will have two 15-minute rounds on either side, a total of four 15-minute rounds if it is the desire of the primary questioners to go that long and then we will move to 5-minute rounds.

Senator LEAHY. Thank you, very much.

Ms. Alvarez, prior to giving it here, had you discussed your statement with anybody else, before you delivered it here?

Ms. ALVAREZ. Oh, no.

Senator LEAHY. Thank you.

And, Ms. Fitch.

Ms. FITCH. I discussed it with counsel, procedural matters, and was simply advised, the only advice I was given was to tell the truth and that's what I tried to do.

Senator LEAHY. Did anybody ask to change any part of your statement?

Ms. FITCH. No, I had my statement with me. It was simply typed up.

Senator LEAHY. Ms. Holt.

Ms. HOLT. No. As Ms. Fitch indicated, I also talked to counsel on procedural matters and was simply told to tell the truth.

Senator LEAHY. And nobody asked you to make any changes in your statement?

Ms. HOLT. No.

Senator LEAHY. Thank you.

And Ms. Berry.

Ms. BERRY. I talked with staff. I am not known as a woman that anybody can tell real easily—

Senator LEAHY. That's not my question.

Ms. BERRY [continuing]. What to do. And nobody changed anything on my testimony, asked me to change anything, just asked me to tell the truth and the facts as I know them.

Senator LEAHY. Now, Ms. Berry, just for the confusion, I saw a list on a panel earlier that Phyllis Myers was going to be here and you say your name you always use professionally is Phyllis Berry. You made some reference earlier to the fact that Professor Hill said she didn't know you. Wasn't that a case where she was asked about Phyllis Myers, and said she didn't know Phyllis Myers, and said later she understands it was Phyllis Berry and said, yes, she does know Phyllis Berry, and that she was confused by the name?

Ms. BERRY. I am not aware of that.

Senator LEAHY. Let me ask Ms. Alvarez, when you worked with Clarence Thomas, how much of a typical day did you spend with him?

Ms. ALVAREZ. Sometimes I saw him once a day, sometimes I didn't see him at all, sometimes more than once. There was really no typical day. We did not spend a lot of time in his office or with him.

Senator LEAHY. And you certainly did not see him all day long, though, that's my point?

Ms. ALVAREZ. No; I mean I would see him come into the office. I would occasionally see him during the day, not all day.

Senator LEAHY. And so there could have been times he could have had discussions with Anita Hill that you would not have been there?

Ms. ALVAREZ. Oh, absolutely.

Senator LEAHY. So you don't know, from personal knowledge, whether Professor Hill is telling the truth or not, from personal knowledge?

Ms. ALVAREZ. No, sir.

Senator LEAHY. Thank you.

And Ms. Fitch, when you worked with Clarence Thomas, how much of a typical day did you spend with him?

Ms. FITCH. My schedule was rather unusual because I was out in research libraries and out in the school system so there were

days, there might be weeks when I did not see him or touch base with Ms. Holt to let her know what I was doing.

Senator LEAHY. So it would be fair to say that, from personal knowledge, you would not know whether Ms. Hill was telling the truth or not?

Ms. FITCH. Personal knowledge, no.

Senator LEAHY. And Ms. Holt, you probably were as close to Judge Thomas as anybody, you were his personal secretary, is that correct?

Ms. HOLT. That's correct.

Senator LEAHY. And the door between your office and his—

Ms. HOLT. I am sorry?

Senator LEAHY. I said there was a door between your office and his?

Ms. HOLT. Yes.

Senator LEAHY. And there were times when people would go in and meet with him, the door would be closed, is that correct?

Ms. HOLT. That's true.

Senator LEAHY. And times when Anita Hill, for example, might be in the office and it would be just the two of them and the door would be closed, is that correct?

Ms. HOLT. That's correct.

Senator LEAHY. And so you would not know, from personal knowledge, whether Professor Hill was telling the truth or not?

Ms. HOLT. No, I would not.

Senator LEAHY. And Ms. Berry, how about you, would you have, from personal knowledge, knowledge of whether Professor Hill is telling the truth or not?

Ms. BERRY. I would not have personal knowledge.

Senator LEAHY. Now, let me ask this of each of you. As I told Judge Thomas, and I think other people who are here did, I don't really have any interest in what he does in the privacy of his home, nor do I have of any of the rest of you, but as you are probably aware, a supporter of his, Lavita Coleman, is quoted in the New York Times as saying that at Yale Law School Judge Thomas "At least once humorously described an X-rated film to me and other colleagues." Then the Times story continues and says, "elaborating beyond the statement, she acknowledged that this had occurred more than once."

I will start with you, Ms. Alvarez, have you ever heard Judge Thomas engage in such conversation with colleagues in the work place?

Ms. ALVAREZ. No, never.

Senator LEAHY. Ms. Fitch.

Ms. FITCH. Never, ever.

Senator LEAHY. Ms. Holt.

Ms. HOLT. Never.

Senator LEAHY. Ms. Berry.

Ms. BERRY. Absolutely not.

Senator LEAHY. Have you ever heard or do you have others that will tell you of Judge Thomas talking about pornographic films, Ms. Berry?

Ms. BERRY. Absolutely not.

Senator LEAHY. Ms. Holt.

Ms. HOLT. No.

Senator LEAHY. Ms. Fitch.

Ms. FITCH. No.

Senator LEAHY. Ms. Alvarez.

Ms. ALVAREZ. No, Senator.

Senator LEAHY. Now, did Judge Thomas ever engage—let me be more specific, I want to speak of social activities with the staff—did he ever go out to lunch with members of the staff, Ms. Alvarez?

Ms. ALVAREZ. Yes; he went to lunch with members of the staff, that was not unusual, but not frequently, very rarely.

Senator LEAHY. Would you ever go out—Ms. Fitch, you said you were gone a lot, but would your answer be the same?

Ms. FITCH. There were occasions when I was in the office, and I would be walking through and he would look for someone to go accompany him to lunch so two or three of us might accompany him at that time.

Senator LEAHY. And, Ms. Holt, that was your experience also?

Ms. HOLT. Absolutely.

Senator LEAHY. And Ms. Berry?

Ms. BERRY. The same.

Senator LEAHY. Did you ever go out for beers or drinks or socialize after work, Ms. Alvarez?

Ms. ALVAREZ. Yes, very, then again, very infrequently. It would be something like, you know, it would be 5:30 or 6 o'clock and we would still be talking over something and we would just go grab a beer.

Senator LEAHY. Ms. Fitch.

Ms. FITCH. I am not aware of that.

Senator LEAHY. Ms. Holt.

Ms. HOLT. Not with me, sir.

Senator LEAHY. Ms. Berry.

Ms. BERRY. No; the only social functions that we had at all would be in connection with my job when I became Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs and there was some reception or something like that that we had to attend.

Senator LEAHY. Did you ever know of Judge Thomas dating any member of the staff, Ms. Alvarez?

Ms. ALVAREZ. No, sir.

Senator LEAHY. You never dated him, for example?

Ms. ALVAREZ. No, sir.

Senator LEAHY. Ms. Fitch.

Ms. FITCH. No, sir, and I never dated him either.

Senator LEAHY. Same answer. Ms. Holt.

Ms. HOLT. No, sir.

Senator LEAHY. And Ms. Berry.

Ms. BERRY. I never dated him and I guess my husband would have a lot to say about that if I did. [Laughter.]

Senator LEAHY. I just didn't want to leave—I knew what your answer would be but I didn't want, having asked the same question of the other three, to leave you out and leave some inference.

Ms. BERRY. That's a legitimate question.

Senator LEAHY. But did you ever know of him dating anybody else—

Ms. BERRY. No, never.

Senator LEAHY. Either at EEOC or at the Department of Education?

Ms. BERRY. Or at the Department of Education, no.

Senator LEAHY. And your answer from each of the rest would be the same.

Now Professor Hill, I think by the feelings of most people here, was a quite believable witness and so now we hear a lot of Judge Thomas' supporters saying that well, that it must be the press or it is some kind of outside groups, or who are really the villains in this process. At least the telephone calls to my office seem to be this and I hear a number of his supporters speaking virtually from the same fire book in that regard. We even had a suggestion that her testimony was lifted from the "Exorcist," I guess this is sort of the "Devil made me do it" defense here.

Do you have any personal knowledge that Professor Hill is a part of a conspiracy to stop this nomination, Ms. Alvarez?

Ms. ALVAREZ. No personal knowledge, sir.

Senator LEAHY. Ms. Berry?

Ms. BERRY. I don't have any personal knowledge that Anita is a part of a conspiracy. I think she has allowed herself to become a pawn in this process.

Senator LEAHY. And Ms. Holt.

Ms. HOLT. No, sir, I don't.

Senator LEAHY. Ms. Fitch.

Ms. FITCH. No personal knowledge, no.

Senator LEAHY. Ms. Myers, in the statement that you issued in response to Anita Hill's press conference, you said—and I want to make sure I am quoting you correctly—"At the Commission I was Clarence Thomas' political eyes and ears and that meant that I knew a great deal about his personal life, as well."

Is that an accurate characterization of what you said?

Ms. BERRY. Yes, it is.

Senator LEAHY. Thank you.

Ms. BERRY. It's exactly what I said.

Senator LEAHY. Do you know Angela Wright?

Ms. BERRY. I certainly do.

Senator LEAHY. And in what—let me ask you this—Angela Wright attributed the following comment about Judge Thomas, and attributed this to you in her statement to the committee, and she attributed you as having said this, "Well"—speaking of Clarence Thomas—"he's a man, you know, he's always hitting on everybody."

Did you ever make that comment to Angela Wright?

Ms. BERRY. Absolutely not. By the time—I know Angela Wright in this way. Angela and I are from North Carolina and Angela and I both served on the staff of Congressman Charlie Rose. I was responsible for getting Angela a position at the Republican National Committee. I was not responsible for her having a position at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. By the time Angela was hired at the EEOC she and I were not friends.

One thing that I am not in the habit of doing in the capacity of being Clarence Thomas' political eyes and ears and sharing many confidences with him, is discussing him with anybody. I was not in the habit of discussing Clarence Thomas with anybody.

Senator LEAHY. Did you—

Ms. BERRY. And I certainly was not in the habit of saying anything to Angela Wright. Her staff and my staffs could confirm that we were barely on professional speaking terms.

Senator LEAHY. So you would say that the comment that she attributes to you, that, "Well, he's a man, you know, he's always hitting on everybody," you never made that comment either to her first, yes or no, you never made that comment to her?

Ms. BERRY. No.

Senator LEAHY. Did you ever say anything even like that to her?

Ms. BERRY. That doesn't even sound like me.

Senator LEAHY. Or to anybody else.

Ms. BERRY. Never.

Senator LEAHY. Now, Ms. Fitch, one of the things that all of us have asked in here, and I am sure that you and everybody else has gone through in their mind is what motivates all of this? And if a woman—well, just let me ask you this—you know Professor Hill very well.

Ms. FITCH. I know Professor Hill, we were collegial and friendly. I never said I knew her very well, but we were friendly, yes.

Senator LEAHY. She worked hard to get where she was—

Ms. FITCH. I am sorry?

Senator LEAHY. Would it be a fair statement that she worked hard to get where she was?

Ms. FITCH. I think she did, yes.

Senator LEAHY. Did you ever witness at any time when she would take an action that would jeopardize her career?

Ms. FITCH. No, I never did.

Senator LEAHY. And did you ever have an occasion where she lied to you?

Ms. FITCH. No.

Senator LEAHY. What can she possibly gain from speaking out against Judge Thomas? I mean what could she possibly gain by making up a story and speaking out against him?

Ms. FITCH. Senator, I have no idea. I am not a psychiatrist, though I admit I wanted to be one for a long time. But I have no idea. I cannot speak to her motivation. It may very well be that Professor Hill believes what she says.

That's not to say that, therefore, she's telling a falsehood, but it doesn't mean that the situation ever happened. Those two things can exist together.

Senator LEAHY. Well, we have two such diametrically opposed stories. There is one thing that both agree on in testimony here. Professor Hill agrees that what she has described would be sexual harassment. I asked Judge Thomas exactly the same question. I said, on these set of facts, of course he categorically denies them, but on these set of facts would that be sexual harassment? And he said, yes, it would. So they both agree on that.

Is it possible that each of them believes he or she is telling the truth?

Ms. FITCH. Of course, it is possible, Senator.

Senator LEAHY. I mean you know them both.

Ms. FITCH. I know them both. I believe because of his past performance, because of the way he has treated me, I have been at meetings with him in his office with the door both closed and open.

When I do come back from my sojourns in libraries, we did talk about my reports. I believe him to be telling the truth. There has never been anything in his character, or in his interaction with me or anyone else that I saw him interacting with, that would suggest even the remotest possibility that this could be true.

Senator LEAHY. And, Ms. Holt, you have known Professor Hill, would you say she worked hard to get where she was?

Ms. HOLT. I would say she worked hard, yes.

Senator LEAHY. Did you ever see her do something that would jeopardize her career during the time that you knew her?

Ms. HOLT. Not to jeopardize her career, no.

Senator LEAHY. Did she ever lie to you that you know of?

Ms. HOLT. Not that I know of.

Senator LEAHY. What does she gain by doing this?

Ms. HOLT. I have no idea. I think she would be the only person that could answer that question for you.

Senator LEAHY. Now, you have not worked for Judge Thomas for some time. When did you stop working for him?

Ms. HOLT. September 1987.

Senator LEAHY. Of 1987?

Ms. HOLT. Yes.

Senator LEAHY. Thank you.

Now, he was nominated in the first part of July, the 4th of July weekend, I believe it was, and after he was nominated when was the first time that anyone showed you phone logs or any portion thereof or talked to you about phone logs?

Ms. HOLT. After he was nominated?

Senator LEAHY. He was nominated in July and there have been discussions of phone logs that you kept. When was the first time that somebody came to you and said, hey, by the way, I want to talk to you about these phone logs?

Ms. HOLT. It was last week.

Senator LEAHY. Last week, that was the first time?

Ms. HOLT. Right.

Senator LEAHY. And who first showed the phone logs to you?

Ms. HOLT. I don't know who first showed them to me. I was shown the phone logs by a person from the Justice Department and I was also shown the phone logs by the Vice Chairman at the EEOC.

Senator LEAHY. And who is that, please?

Ms. HOLT. Ricky Silberman.

Senator LEAHY. Do you know where the Vice Chairman obtained the pages she showed you or how she determined they were pertinent?

Ms. HOLT. I have no idea.

Senator LEAHY. Now, you said in your staff interview that the Vice Chairman asked you if a caller were returning a Clarence Thomas call you would have entered returned your call.

Now, callers did not always indicate whether they were returning his call or not, did they?

Ms. HOLT. Usually they did, sir.

Senator LEAHY. But not always.

Ms. HOLT. I can't think of an instance when one didn't.

Senator LEAHY. Did you ever use a tear-out pad or a phone message book with individual message sheets and carbons?

Ms. HOLT. I never did.

Senator LEAHY. When Vice Chairman Silberman brought you pages from the log, were any particular messages asterisked, did they have some asterisks on them?

Ms. HOLT. Asterisked? No.

Senator LEAHY. None?

Ms. HOLT. You said an asterisk?

Senator LEAHY. Yes. Or a special mark?

Ms. HOLT. There were messages with check marks and with X's.

Senator LEAHY. Were those check marks that you had made?

Ms. HOLT. Yes.

Senator LEAHY. Were there any marks on the pages that they brought back to you that you do not recall having made?

Ms. HOLT. No, there is a phone call, a message that I did not take.

Senator LEAHY. I notice my time is up. Mr. Chairman I—I know you are going to keep all questioners to tight time limits, I will wait until the next go-around.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

What I suggest now is Senator Thurmond will assign somebody to question you for 15 minutes.

Senator THURMOND. Mr. Chairman, I have asked Senator Hatch to question this panel.

Senator HATCH. Well, thank you, Senator Thurmond.

Welcome to these proceedings. I am just going to ask a series of questions I would like to get out of the way first. All four of you have worked very closely with Clarence Thomas, is that right?

We will start with you, Ms. Alvarez, and just go across the table.

Ms. ALVAREZ. Yes, sir.

Ms. FITCH. Yes, sir.

Ms. HOLT. Yes, sir.

Ms. BERRY. That's correct.

Senator HATCH. Bring your mikes a little bit closer so that everybody can hear you. Tell me the number of years each of you have worked closely with Chairman Thomas, Ms. Alvarez?

Ms. ALVAREZ. I worked closely with him for 4 years and have known him for 13 years.

Senator HATCH. Four years and have known him, yes, that's good, give both.

Ms. FITCH. I worked for him for 7 years and have known him in the subsequent 2 years, 9 years.

Senator HATCH. So, 9 years.

Ms. HOLT. I was his personal secretary for a total of 6 years, but I have known him for 10.

Senator HATCH. OK, Ms. Berry.

Ms. BERRY. I have known him since 1979 but I worked most closely with him at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and that was about 5 years.

Senator HATCH. Have any of you ever seen anything or seen him do anything or have heard him accused of doing anything like what Professor Hill has articulated here, before this committee, Ms. Alvarez?

Ms. ALVAREZ. No, sir.
Ms. FITCH. No, sir.
Ms. HOLT. No, sir.
Ms. BERRY. No, sir.

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