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Senate Confirms Kirkland Alum To Claims Court

By **Julia Arciga**

Law360 (September 22, 2020, 2:46 PM EDT) -- A Maryland-based former Kirkland & Ellis LLP associate will become a judge of the Court of Federal Claims for a 15-year term, after the U.S. Senate on Tuesday confirmed him by a 66-27 vote.

Edward H. Meyers is a partner at Stein Mitchell Beato & Missner LLP, litigating bid protests, breach of contract disputes and copyright infringement. While at the firm, he served as counsel for one of the collection agencies in a **2018 consolidated protest action** challenging the U.S. Department of Education's solicitation for student loan debt collection services.

He clerked with Federal Claims Judge Loren A. Smith between 2005 and 2006 before spending six years as a Kirkland associate, where he worked as a civil litigator handling securities, government contracts, construction, insurance and statutory claims. He earned his bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University and his law degree summa cum laude from Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law — where he joined the Federalist Society and still remains a member.

Judiciary committee members Sens. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., and Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., had raised questions about Meyers' Federalist Society affiliation before Tuesday's vote, and he confirmed that he did speak to fellow members throughout his nomination process. He also had said he "plan[ned] to continue" attending Federalist Society "debates and presentations" if confirmed.

Feinstein also raised questions about Meyers' National Rifle Association membership, which began in 2009. If confirmed, Meyers said he would resign his membership and "evaluate any potential conflict" in any cases that come before him.

When pressed by senators, Meyers said it would be "inappropriate" for him to say whether or not he believed human activity was contributing to or causing climate change or if voter fraud was a widespread issue in U.S. elections. When Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., asked if Meyers believed people of color were "disproportionately represented in our nation's jails and prisons," he said he believed data did support that statement.

Meyers' confirmation gives President Donald Trump his sixth appointment to the claims court, which hears contract disputes with the federal government.

The **two most recent confirmations** came in January, for Judge Matthew H. Solomson, a veteran of Anthem Inc. and Booz Allen Hamilton, and Judge Eleni M. Roumel, a **deputy counsel** to Vice President Mike Pence who was previously a partner at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP.

Seven other claims court candidates await Senate action. Three need final confirmation votes while four first require Judiciary Committee approval.

Two of those were just tapped in the past month. **Zachary N. Somers** is a veteran Republican congressional staffer who has investigated Hillary Clinton's emails and the origins of the Russia probe after litigating at the claims court with Marzulla Law LLC.

Kindred Healthcare attorney **Stephen A. Kubiowski** was previously a federal prosecutor and partner at Faegre Baker Daniels, which in February merged with Drinker Biddle & Reath to become Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP.

--Additional reporting by Andrew Kragie, Daniel Wilson, Matt Bernardini and Mike LaSusa. Editing by Orlando Lorenzo.

Law360 is **tracking the judicial nominations** of President Trump as he seeks to reshape the federal bench.

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