

THE CONSTITUTION PROJECT



Safeguarding Liberty, Justice & the Rule of Law

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TCP Applauds Senate Committee for Privacy Board Vote *Franklin: 'Getting PCLOB up and running is long overdue'*

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Constitution Project applauds the Senate Judiciary Committee for voting today to send a bipartisan slate of five nominees to an independent privacy watchdog board to the full Senate for confirmation.

"Getting the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board up and running is long overdue," said Sharon Bradford Franklin, senior policy counsel at The Constitution Project, "and today's vote moves the creation of this vital board one step closer. Now the full Senate must act."

The Constitution Project has long urged Congress and the president to create and staff an independent privacy board. First created in 2004 based on the recommendations of the bipartisan 9/11 Commission, the five-member Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board (PCLOB) is intended to play a vital role in overseeing the privacy and civil liberties implications of national security programs and policies.

In 2007, Congress enacted legislation to strengthen the PCLOB, including making it an independent agency and giving it subpoena power, but the board cannot come into existence until the Senate confirms its members. President Obama completed nomination of the full slate of members to the board last December.

The Senate Judiciary Committee vote will send all five nominees -- Rachel Brand, Elizabeth Cook, James Dempsey, David Medine and Patricia Wald -- to the full Senate for consideration.

About The Constitution Project

Created out of the belief that we must cast aside the labels that divide us in order to keep our democracy strong, The Constitution Project (TCP) brings together policy experts and legal practitioners from across the political spectrum to foster consensus-based solutions to the most difficult constitutional challenges of our time. TCP seeks to reform the nation's broken criminal justice system and to strengthen the rule of law through scholarship, advocacy, policy reform and public education initiatives. Established in 1997, TCP is based in Washington, D.C.



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