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# Elena Kagan, Supreme Court nominee: GOP's verdict is she's 'rubber stamp' for Obama administration

By [Richard Sisk](#)  
DAILY NEWS WASHINGTON BUREAU

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Harrer/Bloomberg Elena Kagan, Obama's nominee for the Supreme Court, is being judged by Republicans as lacking on several fronts.

WASHINGTON - Senate Republicans and conservative groups cited [Elena Kagan's](#) lack of judicial experience and charged that Kagan would follow the progressive legal agenda of the [White](#)

[House](#) in rote step, but they stopped short Monday of pushing for a filibuster to block a floor vote.

[Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell \(R-Ky.\)](#) called Kagan a "rubber stamp" for the [Obama administration](#), and [Sen. John Cornyn \(R-Tex.\)](#) said she was out of touch with most Americans.

"Ms. Kagan has spent her entire professional career in [Harvard Square](#), [Hyde Park](#), and the D.C. Beltway," said [Cornyn](#), chairman of the [GOP](#) senatorial campaign committee. "These are not places where one learns how ordinary people live."

Kagan also drew heat from the left over her perceived defense of limits on Court oversight of executive decisions on terror suspects and the [Guantanamo Bay](#) prison camp.

"We don't see any basis to assume she does not embrace the (administration of former President George W.) Bush view of executive power," said [Vince Warren](#), executive director of the [Center for Constitutional Rights](#).

But [Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid](#) hailed the choice of a nominee "from outside the judicial monastery," and [Sen. Patrick Leahy \(D-Vt.\)](#), who will hold hearings on Kagan's nomination as chairman of the [Judiciary Committee](#), pledged to get a vote on Kagan before the August Congressional recess.

In a relatively mild reaction from a Republican leader, Third Branch Conference chairman [Manuel Miranda](#) called Kagan "a perfectly reasonable nominee for a Democratic president."

Nevertheless, Miranda noted, Kagan "has no judicial record to show the honed skill of judiciousness... the ability to put aside personal views to render justice."

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"Kagan is a stealth nominee for both the Left, who want guarantees on the results of cases, and for the Right, who want to know how a nominee will approach judging."

That suggests Kagan's confirmation hearings this summer may be more intense than Obama's first pick, then-appeals court judge [Sonia Sotomayor](#).

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