

The Supreme Court Interview

I had not intended to listen to the Senate's questioning of Christine Blasey Ford. Anita Hill's session in front of the senate troubles me still today. However, I was in my car doing errands and listened to Dr. Ford's testimony. It was compelling and powerful in its honesty.

In life, there are many situations where we must rely on our inner wisdom, our personal experience, and a myriad of tiny clues that our brains process to form an opinion. Employers must rely on such clues when hiring, and that is what we are expecting our elected officials to do. We are employing someone to be on the high court for as long as she or he chooses. Sen. Robert C. Byrd, who represented West Virginia for decades, said at the time of Clarence Thomas' confirmation, "I say resolve it in the interests of our country, its future. Let's not have a cloud of doubt for someone who will be on the court for many years." (Timothy M. Phelps, editor, Los Angeles Times, 9/18/2018) Robert Byrd believed Anita Hill's testimony and voted against Clarence Thomas.

There was an effort to discredit Dr. Ford, implying that she was sharing this intensely painful history with help from those who oppose Brett Kavanaugh's nomination. Some of the senators and pundits find it impossible that she doesn't remember details from so long ago. Does anyone remember exactly who was at a party when they were 15 or their transportation? They dismissed her courage, her willingness to suffer threats, and familial mayhem, as a show for political reasons. I wonder at the cynicism and heartlessness of some of our senators.

I do not know how this story will end. Brett Kavanaugh was aggressive and angry in his rebuttal. He did not answer directly to questions concerning a drinking problem, he was wildly political in his accusations, and seemed to be the antithesis of what we look for in a judge. It is clear he feels entitled to this position.

Prior to the sexual assault allegations, AAUW opposed Kavanaugh based on a judicial record that he would "do grave harm by undermining positions central to AAUW's mission, including upending employment and labor rights, curtailing reproductive rights and access to health care, entangling public education and religion, and restricting voting rights." (Deborah J. Vagins, Senior Vice President, Public Policy and Research, AAUW.org) Truly, in this country with so many qualified jurists, can we not find one who does not have a dubious history and would truly serve the interests of all the people?