

Legal Sidebar

Vacancy on the Supreme Court: CRS Products

03/21/2016

On February 13, 2016, Justice Antonin Scalia unexpectedly passed away at the age of 79, vacating a seat on the Supreme Court that he had held for nearly 30 years. A little over a month later, on March 16, 2016, President Obama nominated Merrick Garland of the federal Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court created by Justice Scalia's death. CRS has several different products on the issue, including analyses of Justice Scalia's impact on the law, the immediate consequences of the new vacancy on the Court, the procedures and legal issues surrounding the appointment of a new Justice, and the nomination of Judge Garland to the High Court.

Below are key CRS products. Please contact Kate Manuel (kmanuel@crs.loc.gov, x7-4477) and Andrew Nolan (anolan@crs.loc.gov, x7-0602), or the authors of the following products with questions about the Supreme Court vacancy.

Justice Scalia and his Impact on the Law

[CRS Report R44419](#), *Justice Antonin Scalia: His Jurisprudence and His Impact on the Court*, by Kate M. Manuel, Brandon J. Murrill, and Andrew Nolan

[CRS Legal Sidebar WSLG1512](#), *Justice Antonin Scalia's Last Opinion*, by Charles Doyle

[CRS Legal Sidebar WSLG1495](#), *What Does Justice Scalia's Death Mean for Congress and the Nation?*, by Kate M. Manuel and Andrew Nolan

Supreme Court Vacancy and Nomination Process

[CRS Report R44400](#), *The Death of Justice Scalia: Procedural Issues Arising on an Eight-Member Supreme Court*, by Andrew Nolan

[CRS Insight IN10455](#), *Nominations to the Supreme Court During Presidential Election Years (1900-Present)*, by Barry J. McMillion

[CRS Insight IN10458](#), *Nominations to the Supreme Court During Years of Divided and Unified Party Government*, by Barry J. McMillion

[CRS Report R44236](#), *Supreme Court Appointment Process: Consideration by the Senate Judiciary Committee*, by Barry J. McMillion

[CRS Report R44235](#), *Supreme Court Appointment Process: President's Selection of a Nominee*, by Barry J. McMillion

[CRS Report R44234](#), *Supreme Court Appointment Process: Senate Debate and Confirmation Vote*, by Barry J. McMillion

Judge Garland and Legal Issues

[CRS Legal Sidebar WSLG1519](#), *Merrick B. Garland: Selected Primary Material*, by Emily E. Roberts and Eva M. Tarnay

[CRS Legal Sidebar WSLG1518](#), *Merrick Garland's Nomination to the Supreme Court: Initial Observations*, by Andrew Nolan

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