

“Confirmation Gridlock: The Battle Between Clinton and Congress Over Lower Federal Court Appointments”

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This paper will focus on appointments to the U.S. district court and courts of appeal during the Clinton administration. Despite a record of appointing moderate judges, Senate Republicans began an aggressive campaign to stall confirmation of Clinton’s judicial nominees during his second term. This effort was most pronounced in 1997 (the first year of Clinton’s second term) and 2000 (his last year in office). In all, 42 judicial nominees remained unconfirmed when Clinton left office in January 2001. Thirty-eight of those never received a hearing. This paper will explore that conflict and its impact on Clinton’s judicial legacy.