

EXCLUSIVE: White House Kills Nomination Of Milwaukee Federal Judge Nominee Because Of Baldwin's Opposition To His Catholic Views

I have learned that the White House has informed prominent Milwaukee attorney Gordon Giampietro he will not be re-nominated for a vacant position on the federal bench in Milwaukee. Giampietro has been the target of a "blue slip" from Democratic Wisconsin Senator Tammy Baldwin who has criticized Giampietro's statement of support of Roman Catholic teachings on same sex marriage and birth control. Giampietro is a practicing Catholic.

Following Baldwin's opposition last year, the five Catholic bishops in Wisconsin wrote Baldwin a letter asking her to reconsider and called for the confirmation of Giampietro. Giampietro has said Baldwin's comments were an attack on his Catholic faith. A "blue slip" is a Senate procedure that allows a senator to block a judicial nominee from his or her state. It is not a law but a long-standing practice of the senate. Sources tell me Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Lindsay Graham of South Carolina will not budge on Giampietro because of Baldwin's blue slip.

Giampietro is a general counsel with Northwestern Mutual and a former federal prosecutor.

Giampietro's nomination died in 2018 without a hearing but many believed President Trump would re-nominate him this year because of conservative determination to move forward on stalled judicial nominees. A source tells me the White House has told Giampietro he will not be re-nominated because of Graham's refusal to consider nominees targeted by blue slips. Giampietro was approved by a bipartisan Wisconsin judicial review commission and is strongly supported by Wisconsin Senator Ron Johnson, He was originally nominated by Trump to fill the vacancy on the US District Court in Milwaukee created by the retirement and subsequent death of conservative Rudolph Randa. Trump will not have to make another nomination. Apparently, if Baldwin gets her way, no Catholics need apply.

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