

## Schimsa, Rebecca

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**From:** Stirling, Bryan  
**Sent:** Friday, December 14, 2012 2:07 PM  
**To:** Patel, Swati; Schimsa, Rebecca  
**Subject:** FW: Appointment Process

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**From:** Bernhardt, Bret (DeMint) [[mailto:Bret\\_Bernhardt@demint.senate.gov](mailto:Bret_Bernhardt@demint.senate.gov)]

**Sent:** Friday, December 14, 2012 12:13 PM

**To:** Stirling, Bryan

**Subject:** Appointment Process

Bryan,

You can call me when you get a minute.....anytime today or this weekend. My cell is 202-228-0336

Quickly though....there are two lines of Senate seniority: 1) Within the Republican caucus, which determines committee assignments; 2) Within the full Senate, which determines office space selection and seat assignment on the Senate floor.

The most important is the caucus seniority because it influences the important process of committee assignments. However, the caucus rules were changed some years ago to prevent members from prematurely resigning to give the incoming member a leg up on his/her class. So there is no advantage with regard to the beginning of the term of service before the rest of the class as it relates to the caucus, but you do want to at least start WITH the class. Things like former Gubernatorial and House service give preference within the class for both caucus and Senate seniority.

The second most important is the Senate seniority. As I mentioned, it affects things less important, like office space, but nevertheless are to be considered when determining the beginning of the term of service.

It's important to note that it takes the cooperation of the Senate for a member's term of service to begin early resulting from an early resignation. Since it is occurring at the same time as the beginning of a new Congress, it may prove difficult to get them an early start.

I have a meeting on Monday with the Parliamentarian to iron the language of a transmittal letter as well as a resignation letter based on the desire to give the appointee a position at the head of the class. As I understand it, I don't believe a transmittal letter needs to happen at the

same time as the announcement of the appointment and we can figure out the best way to handle it once an appointee decision has been made and announced.

Bret

Bret Bernhardt  
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