

# METRO

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## Mack nominates 7 for U.S. judgeship

Staff and wire reports

U.S. Sen. Connie Mack has recommended two circuit judges and a lawyer from Palm Beach County as candidates for a federal judgeship for the Southern District of Florida.

The men were on a list of seven names Mack, R-Fla., forwarded on Thursday to the Justice Department for background reviews. The senator's office said the depart-

ment would consult with Mack in choosing one name from the list to forward to the White House.

Judge Stephen Anthony Rapp, Judge Tom Sholts and lawyer Kenneth Walter Lipman of Boca Raton were among those recommended by Mack. The list also includes a lawyer from Fort Lauderdale and two lawyers and a circuit judge from Miami.

Also on Thursday, a groundswell of opposition to the appeals court

nomination of U.S. District Court Judge Kenneth Ryskamp grew as 53 Florida groups lodged their objections.

An assortment of civil rights groups and labor unions cited what they say is Ryskamp's hostility to civil rights claims and his membership in the Riviera Country Club, which once excluded minorities but says it no longer does.

"We are seeing really the first test of the Bush presidency's lean-

ing toward a more conservative judiciary," said Frank Jackalone, Florida coordinator of the Alliance for Justice.

Ryskamp joined the U.S. District Court bench in 1986 after 25 years in civil practice. A message was left at his Miami chambers on Thursday, but the judge has consistently declined comment on moves for and against his elevation to the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta.