

REPORT FOR THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

UNITED STATES SENATE

SUBJECT: Ambassadorial Nomination: Certificate of
Demonstrated Competence -- Foreign Service
Act, Section 304(a)(4)

RELEASED IN FULL

POST: The Italian Republic and the Republic of San Marino

CANDIDATE: John R. Phillips

John R. Phillips, the grandson of Italian immigrants, is a leading attorney and litigator who was, until recently, a Partner at Phillips & Cohen, Washington, DC (1994-2013). Nationally recognized as an authority on whistleblower cases and included in National Law Journal's lists of "100 Most Influential Lawyers in America" (1998-2008), he is known for his legal acumen, expertise in public interest law and successful litigation under the False Claims Act. The law firm that he founded in 1994 is responsible for the recovery of \$11 billion dollars to the U.S. Treasury over the last 15 years. His firm has been cited by the National Law Journal as one of the top performing twenty plaintiffs' law firms in the United States in four out of the last six years. A proven, experienced leader and negotiator, Mr. Phillips will bring essential skills to the task of furthering bilateral relations with the Governments of Italy – a key U.S. ally in the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) – and San Marino.

Mr. Phillips was the Co-Founder of the Center for Law in Public Interest, Los Angeles, California (06/1971-1988) where he successfully pursued major public policy cases. He was appointed by President Obama in 2009 to be the Chairman of the President's Commission on White House Fellowships. He was also a Member of the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference and Member of the Energy Conservation Commission of the U.S. Department of Energy. Other public service positions have included Trustee of the American Academy in Rome where he interacted with many Americans and Italians in Rome. He also serves as a director of Technoserve and the Batonga Foundation, which he founded in 2005.

Mr. Phillips earned a B.A. from the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana in 1966 and a J.D. from the University of California Berkeley School of Law, Berkeley, California in 1969 where he was editor of the California Law Review. He is the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Frank Tumminia, Senior Reviewer