

Ford taps Obama, Clinton alum to navigate Senate hearing

BY TAL AXELROD - 09/20/18

Dr. Christine Blasey Ford, the woman who accused Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of committing sexual assault when they were in high school, has hired Democratic operative Ricki Seidman to help navigate a potential hearing in front of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Seidman, now a senior principal at TSD Communications, confirmed her role in [an interview with Politico](#).

Seidman worked as [Joe Biden](#)'s communication's director during the 2008 general presidential election campaign after Biden was picked as [Barack Obama](#)'s running mate. She also assisted in guiding Sonia Sotomayor's confirmation to the Supreme Court.

Before then, Seidman was a deputy communications director in the Clinton White House.

Politico reports Seidman was hired to give Ford personal advice on how to navigate the intense spotlight that comes with being implicated in Kavanaugh's high intensity Supreme Court nomination.

While Kavanaugh has been seen in the White House over the past several days, likely to prepare for the rest of the confirmation process and deal with the fallout of Ford's allegations, a source tells Politico that Ford has not been participating in mock proceedings or other traditional hearing preparations.

Ford initially said she was willing to testify in front of the Senate Judiciary Committee, but balked and said she would want an FBI investigation into her allegations completed before that happened.

But The New York Times reported Thursday that Ford's lawyer told the committee she would be [prepared to testify next week](#) if senators offer "terms that are fair and which ensure her safety."

Seidman's new role in Ford's hearing could bolster claims by some Republicans that her accusations are a politically-motivated attempt to derail Kavanaugh's confirmation to the Supreme Court.

"This feels more like a Democratic super PAC than a legal effort to get at the truth," a senior Republican official told Politico.

Ford has denied have any political animus against Kavanaugh and many Republicans have tried to find ways to hear her testimony in a setting that would make Ford comfortable.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman [Chuck Grassley](#) (R-Iowa) said he was willing to [send committee staffers to California](#) to hear what Ford had to say.

“It is my understanding that the Committee has offered to hold either a public or a private session, whichever would make her more comfortable,” Sen. [Susan Collins](#) (R-Maine), a crucial swing vote in Kavanaugh’s potential confirmation, said earlier this week.