Why is it that women are seen as lacking?

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When men move quickly up the ladder, we admire them as high fliers, but women always need to be twice as good. At Senate Judiciary Committee hearings recently, Chuck Grassley questioned the credentials and experience of four women President Barack Obama nominated to the federal courts.

Our judiciary is struggling with its caseload as positions go unfilled waiting for Senate confirmation. Women seem to take longer than men to get through the process, particularly when the president and the majority of the Senate are from different parties.

Iowans will remember that Iowa’s own Bonnie Campbell never received a confirmation vote to serve on the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. The only woman to ever serve on that court, out of 61 judges, Judge Diana Murphy, was also dismissed by some, including the American Bar Association, as less qualified because she came to legal practice later in life and had fewer years of legal service. She has served with distinction.

What is really going on is that Grassley does not like the politics of these women, whom he suspects of being too liberal for his taste. But is it more acceptable to question their credentials, and sadly, women’s credentials just never seem to be good enough.

http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110629/OPINION04/106290339/1038/Why-women-seen-lacking
-- Sally J. Kenney, political science professor, Tulane University, New Orleans, La.

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