

Responses of Cathy Ann Bencivengo
Nominee to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California
to the Written Questions of Senator Amy Klobuchar

- 1. If you had to describe it, how would you characterize your judicial philosophy? How do you see the role of the judge in our constitutional system?**

Response: I would characterize my judicial philosophy as impartiality and efficiency. Parties are entitled to a fair and full opportunity to be heard, an impartial and faithful application of the law to the facts of the case and a prompt resolution of the matter. In our constitutional system, the role of a District Judge is to apply law in accordance with precedent to the facts and issues presented.

- 2. What assurances can you give that litigants coming into your courtroom will be treated fairly regardless of their political beliefs or whether they are rich or poor, defendant or plaintiff?**

Response: Equal justice under the law is a cornerstone of our legal system. During my service as a Magistrate Judge, I believe I have demonstrated my commitment to treat all litigants with respect and dignity without regard to their political beliefs, economic status, or role in the case. I am patient and courteous and provide a forum in which all litigants receive fair treatment and consideration. If I am confirmed as a District Judge, I will continue that commitment

- 3. In your opinion, how strongly should judges bind themselves to the doctrine of stare decisis? How does the commitment to stare decisis vary depending on the court?**

Response: Judges are obligated to adhere to and apply precedential opinions of the court's controlling Circuit Court and the Supreme Court. The doctrine of *stare decisis* is not optional nor does it vary depending on the court.