

Responses of Jesus G. Bernal
Nominee to be United States District Judge for the Central 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: My judicial philosophy is that judges should be impartial, even-tempered, patient, and respectful in the performance of their duties. In addition, judges should have the courage to render any decision which results from an impartial application of the law to the admissible facts. Judges should maintain an open mind and make decisions without preconceptions or prejudices of any sort. By exercising courage and impartiality, judges can help promote in litigants and the public a conviction that our system of justice is fair and accessible. Judges play an important but limited role in our constitutional system. They determine and faithfully apply the law to the facts in narrowly resolving all matters within their jurisdiction.

- 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: As a Deputy Federal Public Defender, I have learned the value of treating all persons with respect, whether or not they enjoy the respect of others. I can provide assurances that if confirmed, all litigants in my court will be treated fairly regardless of their political beliefs, whether they are rich or poor, or whether they are a plaintiff or a defendant.

- 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 should strictly adhere to the doctrine of stare decisis and apply binding precedent whether or not they personally agree with that precedent. Adherence to the doctrine of stare decisis ensures that cases are decided consistently and promotes the public trust in the fairness of our judicial system. I do not believe that the commitment to stare decisis should vary depending on the court.