

Sen. Cornyn's Statement on Nomination of Rodney Gilstrap

- Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to take this opportunity to speak in support of the nomination of Rodney Gilstrap to serve as United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas in Marshall. Senator Hutchison and I were both honored to recommend Mr. Gilstrap to President Obama after he was screened by our bipartisan Federal Judicial Evaluation Committee and interviewed by us.
- Based on his broad experience and commitment to public service, Mr. Gilstrap has earned widespread support from both Republicans and Democrats in Texas.
- I am confident that Mr. Gilstrap will make an outstanding addition to the federal bench.
- Born in Pensacola, Florida, Mr. Gilstrap got to Texas as fast as he could. He graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Baylor University. He received his law degree also from Baylor University, serving as an Associate Editor for the Baylor Law Review.

- After law school, Mr. Gilstrap went on to work as an associate with Abney, Baldwin & Searcy in Marshall, Texas, from 1981 to 1984 and as a partner with Smith & Gilstrap, also in Marshall, from 1984 until today.
- His practice is a general civil practice, focusing on state and federal civil and commercial litigation. He has experience with many areas, including oil and gas, real estate, and probate law.
- He has represented, among others, Qwest Communications, CapitolOne Bank, and LG Display as local counsel in intellectual property litigation.
- In 1989, he began his 13-year tenure serving County Judge for Harrison County. He developed a reputation and record for achievement in that capacity, as he directed several important projects for the county.

- Mr. Gilstrap's commitment to public service extends far beyond his tenure as County Judge. He has served as President of the Harrison County Bar Association, Chairman of the Supreme Court of Texas' Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee, and Chairman of the Chief Elected Officials Board of Directors for the East Texas Council of Governments.
- He is a model citizen of East Texas in other capacities. He has served as President of the Marshall Rotary Club, as President of the Harrison County Historical Society, as Chairman of the Historic Harrison County Courthouse Restoration/Preservation Council, and as the Harrison County Representative to the Northeast Texas Regional Mobility Authority.
- Mr. Gilstrap's daughter, Dr. Lauren Gilstrap, is a recent graduate of Harvard Medical School and is now in a residency at Massachusetts General. She was a Truman Scholar at UT Austin. His son, Stephen, graduated from Yale Law School in May and is preparing to take the Texas Bar exam this week.

- Don Scoggins, the retired President of Eastman Chemical Company's Texas Division and an East Texas community leader, had this to say about Rodney Gilstrap:
 - "Rodney always impressed me as a person who was in public office for the right reason—public service. Harrison County was fortunate to have had a person of his integrity as County Judge."
- In short, this nominee meets the highest standards for education, ethics, competence, and public service—and will be an outstanding addition to the federal bench in East Texas.
- I urge you to join Senator Hutchison and me in supporting Mr. Gilstrap's nomination to be a U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.