

Responses of Gonzalo P. Curiel
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: To the extent that I have a judicial philosophy, it is premised on respect. I have an abiding respect for the parties, their cases, and the rule of law. The role of a judge in our constitutional system is to apply the law fairly and faithfully in an open and transparent process.

- 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: The rule of law requires that all litigants be treated fairly and impartially regardless of their beliefs, wealth or status. I am committed to upholding the rule of law.

- 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 bound by the doctrine of stare decisis. The doctrine of stare decisis applies to all courts but with particular vigor in the case of a trial court. A trial court is primarily the trier of fact and is expected to follow the law as articulated by the United States Supreme Court and the appellate courts.