

Responses of Fernando M. Olguin
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 based on integrity and respect and an understanding that the role of a judge is a limited one in our constitutional system. As a trial court judge, I'm governed by the rule of law. It is not my job to make law; I take my direction from the Supreme Court and the appellate courts. My responsibility is to work hard to get a handle on the facts and the controlling law and reach a decision that is fair and just and timely. In carrying out my judicial duties, I will be respectful and even-handed to all litigants, witnesses and attorneys who appear before me.

- 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: Through my 11 years as a United States Magistrate Judge, I have endeavored to treat all litigants, witnesses and attorneys with patience, dignity and respect, regardless of their political beliefs or whether they are rich or poor, defendant or plaintiff. In addition, I have always applied and followed the rule of law, irrespective of a party's wealth or political beliefs. If I am fortunate enough to be confirmed as a United States District Judge, I will continue to treat all litigants fairly and respectfully, and issue decisions grounded in precedent and the text of the 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: *Stare decisis* is one of the cornerstones of our legal system. To a large extent, the integrity of the legal system is dependent upon judges respecting the doctrine of *stare decisis*. As a District Judge, I would be bound to follow the precedents established by the United States Supreme Court and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.