

Responses of Thomas M. Durkin
Nominee to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois
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 to treat all litigants fairly and with respect, keeping an open mind and being patient when hearing matters. The role of the judge in our constitutional system is to decide cases fairly without regard to the identities of the parties, and to follow controlling precedent.

- 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: During my career, I have represented the government, and a large number of wealthy and poor plaintiffs and defendants of all political beliefs. I have represented all of my clients ethically and zealously without regard to their station in life. I can assure you I will treat all litigants fairly, as I believe that is the essence of being a good judge.

- 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 absolutely bound by the doctrine of stare decisis, and should follow controlling precedent. That commitment to stare decisis does not vary depending on the court.