

**Statement of Senator Dianne Feinstein on Paul Lewis
Abrams, Nominee to be a U.S. District Judge for the
Central District of California**

Senate Judiciary Committee

Hearing

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to say to my colleagues that Judge Paul Abrams enjoys my full support for his appointment to be a U.S. District Judge in the Central District of California.

Judge Abrams earned his Bachelor's degree, with *honors*, from University of California, Berkeley in 1979, and his law degree from Boalt Hall Law School at the University of California, Berkeley in 1983.

He began his law career as a litigation associate at Jeffer, Mangles & Butler in Los Angeles, California. He

was involved in all aspects of civil business litigation and represented a number of business entities during this time.

Judge Abrams then worked as the director of the Valley Rights Project at Bet Tzedek Legal Services, an organization dedicated to providing free, comprehensive legal services to low-income individuals in the Los Angeles area. As director, Judge Abrams often represented low-income clients in civil litigation and administrative proceedings.

Following his time at Bet Tzedek Legal Services, Judge Abrams served in the Office of the Federal Public Defender in Los Angeles, first as deputy federal public defender and then as supervising deputy federal public defender.

In this office, he represented indigent individuals in a variety of cases. All of his practice during this time was in federal court.

Since 2002, Judge Abrams has served as a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

He has issued approximately 1,700 reports, recommendations, opinions and substantive orders, of which only 15 have been reversed or modified. This exceptional record represents a reversal rate of less than one percent.

Judge Abrams has also been involved in civic work within his community. He participates as a judicial officer with the Conviction and Sentence Alternatives program, also known as CASA, in the Central District of California.

Judge Abrams takes time each week to meet with participants in this program to promote the rehabilitation of offenders and the safety of the community.

The American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary unanimously gave Judge Abrams

their highest rating of “well qualified” to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

Judge Abrams has my full support. I believe his credentials and exceptional record demonstrate that Judge Abrams will bring skill, dedication and integrity to the federal bench. I urge my colleagues to support him.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.