

Response of Beverly R. O'Connell
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: Over the course of my seven years as a judge, my judicial philosophy has been to be prepared, to respect all litigants who enter my courtroom, and to fairly and impartially judge the cases that come before me. It is my role to apply the law to the facts in a fair and impartial way and decide only the issues properly before the court.

- 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: I have, over the course of my seven-year judicial career, earned the reputation of being fair and impartial to both sides of every dispute. If confirmed, I will continue to fairly and impartially decide cases, regardless of the political beliefs of the litigants and regardless of whether the litigants are plaintiffs, defendants, rich or poor.

- 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 a bedrock principle of our justice system. Courts are bound to follow all applicable precedent. The Supreme Court and Circuit Courts may re-visit their precedent in limited circumstances. District courts remain bound by all applicable precedent and if confirmed, I would continue to follow all applicable decisional authority.