

Statement of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein
September 29, 2010

Statement on the Nomination of Judge Edward Davila
to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of California

Mr. Chairman, I regret that I am unable to attend today's hearing. I am very pleased, however, to submit this statement regarding the nomination of Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Edward Davila to sit on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

Let me begin by saying that Judge Davila's confirmation would add critically important diversity to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District. If confirmed, he would be the only Latino District Judge in this District, which covers more than 15 counties and 7.3 million people and has a jurisdiction that stretches from Eureka to San Jose, and from the Monterrey Bay nearly to Sacramento County. So this is a significant nomination and one that I am proud to support.

A Wealth of Experience – As a Lawyer and a Judge

Judge Davila brings a wealth of relevant experience to the Court – as a lawyer, and as a judge.

For over nine years, he has served our State as a Superior Court Judge for Santa Clara County.

He was appointed by Governor Gray Davis in 2001 and has, in the intervening nine years, presided over a wide array of matters, from criminal cases to civil disputes, from custody matters to juvenile justice proceedings.

He has handled more than 10,000 cases at various stages of litigation and has seen more than 50 cases from trial to verdict or judgment.

This is valuable experience that would serve him well as a U.S. District Judge.

Judge Davila is also a seasoned lawyer, with 22 years of litigation experience under his belt.

From 1988 to 2001, he ran his own firm, Davila & Polverino, where he represented individuals and businesses in primarily criminal proceedings.

From 1979 to 1988, he served as a Deputy Public Defender, providing legal defense services to indigent individuals with the Santa Clara County Office of the Public Defender.

Judge Davila is a graduate of the University of California, Hastings College of the Law and California State University at San Diego.

Accolades for Service to the Community

In addition to his purely professional experience, Judge Davila also has a record of giving back to his community.

- He is a former President of both the Santa Clara County Bar Association and the Santa Clara County La Raza Lawyers Association.
- He has taught trial advocacy classes as a visiting professor at Stanford Law School, Santa Clara University School of law, and the University Of San Francisco School Of Law.
- He has served as a Board Member for the Legal Aid Society of Santa Clara County.
- And he has made a longstanding tradition out of inviting classes of students into his courtroom to educate them on the criminal justice system and use mock trials to inspire in them a love of the law.

For his continued contributions, the Santa Clara County Bar Association has awarded Judge Davila the Award for Outstanding Contributions for Pro Bono Services, the Unsung Heroes Award for Leadership, and the Justice Byrl R. Salsman Award; the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization has honored him with an Outstanding Service Award; and the California State Assembly has awarded him a Certificate of Recognition for his work on the State's Access to Justice Program, which supports public-private partnering to expand access to justice.

Judge Davila has accomplished a great deal in his career. I congratulate him on his nomination and urge my colleagues to move this nomination forward to confirmation in a timely manner.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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