

**Statement of Senator Chuck Grassley
Before the Committee on the Judiciary
On the Nominations of:**

Michael P. Shea, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Connecticut

Gonzalo P. Curiel, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California

Robert J. Shelby, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah

March 28, 2012

Mr. Chair:

I join you in welcoming the nominees who are appearing before us today, their friends and families. I note that we are making good progress on judicial nominations this year.

Including today, we have been in session for 35 days. We will have had five nominations hearings. This is an average of one hearing for every 7 of those days. This year we will have heard from 20 nominees. I consider this to be excellent progress. So I welcome the nominees today.

Michael Shea is nominated to be a United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut. Upon graduation from Yale Law School in 1993, Mr. Shea clerked for James Buckley, United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit. After his clerkship, he worked as an associate at Clearly, Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton on antitrust matters. In 1998, he moved to Day Berry & Howard in Connecticut and became a partner in 2003. His career there has spanned a broad range of civil and criminal litigation. Mr. Shea has tried nine cases to verdict and has argued twenty appeals, including six at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

The American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary unanimously rated Mr. Shea as "Qualified" for this position.

Gonzalo P. Curiel is nominated to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California. Upon graduation from Indiana University Law School in 1979, he

worked as an associate at the law firm James James & Manning, specializing in civil and criminal litigation. In 1986, he became an associate at Barbosa & Vera, specializing in the representation of municipalities in cases concerning highway design, personal injury and police practice.

Judge Curiel left private practice in 1989 to become an Assistant U.S. Attorney, first in San Diego, then in Los Angeles. As a federal prosecutor, he specialized in narcotics and money laundering cases, serving as Deputy Chief of the Narcotics Enforcement Section for many years. Judge Curiel has tried approximately 33 cases to verdict.

In 2006, then Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Judge Curiel to the Superior Court for the State of California, County of San Diego. He was re-elected in November 2008. He sits in a state trial court of general jurisdiction.

A majority of the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary rated Judge Curiel as "Well Qualified" for this position and a minority rated him as "Qualified".

Robert J. Shelby is nominated to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah. Upon graduation from University of Virginia School of Law in 1998, Mr. Shelby clerked for J. Thomas Greene, District Judge for the District of Utah. In 2000, he joined Snow Christensen & Martineau as an associate attorney. There, he primarily handled cases involving defense of white-collar defendants but also handled defense of crimes involving fraud, rape, embezzlement, and theft. Mr. Shelby joined Burbidge Mitchell & Gross in 2005. There, his practice focused on catastrophic personal injury cases and complex commercial litigation. He returned to Snow Christensen and Martineau in 2011 and has managed the defense of a national class action case. He has tried approximately 35 cases to verdict.

The American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary unanimously rated Mr. Shelby as "Qualified" for this position.