

Statement of Sen. Orrin G. Hatch
Before the Senate Judiciary Committee
Regarding the nomination of Robert Shelby to the U.S. District Court
March 28, 2012

Mr. Chairman, I want to join my fellow Senator from Utah and Judiciary Committee colleague, Senator Lee, in commending Robert Shelby to the Committee. Utah is a busy, fast-growing state and, not surprisingly, the U.S. District Court in Utah has a busy, fast-growing docket. Even a single vacancy can have a real impact on a court with just five active judgeships.

Bob Shelby received his undergraduate degree from the University of Utah and has been an active member of the bar at the county, state, and national levels since graduating from the University of Virginia Law School in 1998. After clerking for U.S. District Judge J. Thomas Greene, Bob has spent the last dozen years in private practice. Bob has also served on the Utah Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on Rules of Civil Procedure and its Ethics and Discipline Committee. His courtroom experience includes both civil and criminal case, before both state and federal courts, and in both trial and appellate courts. This breadth of experience will help Bob be an effective judge.

This is not Bob's only public service. He served in the Utah Army National Guard from 1988 to 1996, serving on active duty during operation Desert Storm and receiving several military awards. I want to thank him for being willing to serve once again and believe he will be a judge committed to fairness and the rule of law. I support his nomination, commend him to my Committee colleagues, and hope that the Senate will approve his nomination as soon as possible.