

Responses of Jon S. Tigar
Nominee to be United States District Judge for the Northern 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: My judicial philosophy is to treat all litigants with respect; to consider the litigants' arguments carefully and with an open mind; to apply the law to the facts before me, without prejudice or bias; to rule only on the issues properly before the court; and to resolve all matters promptly. A judge's role is to interpret and apply the laws passed by Congress.

- 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 served as a state court judge since January 2002. During that time, I have earned a reputation for fairness and integrity. If confirmed to the federal court, I will continue to treat all litigants fairly and respectfully regardless of their political beliefs, their economic status, or whether they are a defendant or a plaintiff.

- 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 common law justice system. All judges are required to apply binding precedent to the cases before them. Although the United States Supreme Court and United States Courts of Appeals sitting en banc may reconsider their own precedents in limited circumstances, a district court judge must always follow controlling precedent.