

Senate Judicial Committee Hearing on “Nominations” May 9, 2018

Introduction of Texas Nominees

- I am proud to welcome our two Texas nominees and their families here today.
- Jeremy Kernodle and Cam Barker are both nominated for district court vacancies in the Eastern District of Texas and will serve together in Tyler.
- They are both top-notch lawyers who have top-notch legal credentials.
- In fact, both of them graduated with the highest GPAs and at the very top of their law school classes.
- How’s that for an impressive and qualified duo for great state of Texas.
- Jeremy grew up in Arkansas and graduated from Harding University.
- While there, Jeremy met his wife Robin, a fifth-generation Texan, and the proud mother of their five children.

- Jeremy then went on to Vanderbilt for law school, where he won numerous awards, and as I mentioned, graduated first in his class.
- He then went on to clerk for a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.
- Jeremy then wandered up here to Washington and worked at a prominent law firm, Covington & Burling, before joining the prestigious Office of Legal Counsel at the Department of Justice, where he served for several years in the Bush Administration.
- In 2006, Jeremy left Washington for Texas and joined the law firm Haynes & Boone, where he is now a partner and leads the firm's False Claims Act practice group.
- Jeremy is one of the leaders of the Texas bar and has served as President of the Dallas Chapter of the Federal Bar Association and a Barrister in the William "Mac" Taylor Inn of Court.
- It has been an honor to support his nomination to become a judge in the Eastern District of Texas.

- Cam Barker grew up in Houston, Texas and is the proud product of Texas public schools, and he actually attended the very same high school where his mom taught mathematics.
- Cam went on to Texas A&M University, where he studied computer engineering and graduated *summa cum laude*.
- From Texas A&M, Cam went to the University of Texas School of Law, where he was an editor of the law review, and as I mentioned, graduated first in his class.
- After law school, Cam clerked for two federal judges, one on the federal circuit, and one on the Second Circuit.
- After clerking, Cam joined the appellate section of the Department of Justice's Criminal Division and briefed and argued criminal appeals on behalf of the United States.
- He also served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of Virginia, where he was the member of a trial team that successfully prosecuted three MS-13 gang members for a shooting in a suburban park just across the river from here in Virginia.

- In 2011, Cam moved back to Texas and joined the law firm of Yetter Coleman, where he practiced complex commercial and patent litigation.
- In 2015, Cam returned to government service as Deputy Solicitor General for Texas, where he has helped to represent the people of Texas in a wide range of litigation.
- We may hear more about that record here today, but I think it is important to recognize now that Cam's excellent work was on behalf of the great state of Texas and the Attorney General that he has served so well.
- Both Cam and Jeremy are the product of the work of Texas's Federal Judicial Selection Committee, which Senator Cruz and I set up to help us to pick the best and brightest judicial nominees for the State of Texas.
- I was proud to join Senator Cruz in supporting their nominations by the President in January.
- And I look forward to their confirmation later this year by the full Senate.