

**Statement of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein
on the Nomination of Beverly Reid O'Connell to be a U.S. District Judge for
the Central District of California**

December 12, 2012

Mr. Chairman, I regret very much that I am unable to attend today's hearing. I would like, however, to express my strong support for Superior Court Judge Beverly Reid O'Connell's nomination to the Central District of California.

She is a well-respected jurist on the Los Angeles County Superior Court, and I have no doubt she will serve with great distinction as a District Judge on the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

Judge O'Connell was born in Ventura, California. She earned her Bachelor's Degree from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1986, and her law degree from Pepperdine University *magna cum laude* in 1990. She was Managing Editor of the *Pepperdine Law Review*.

Following law school, Judge O'Connell worked on complex civil litigation at the law firm Morrison and Foerster in Los Angeles from 1990 through 1995.

She then joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Central District of California, where she prosecuted a number of high-profile cases. For example, she prosecuted a high-ranking member of the Arellano Felix drug cartel, as well as a man who threw Molotov cocktails at sport-utility vehicles at a car dealership.

In her ten years in the U.S. Attorney's Office, she built a reputation as a distinguished prosecutor and won a number of awards, including the Drug Enforcement Administration Administrator's Award for Exceptional Service Rendered to the Federal Government and a Special Achievement Award from the Department of Justice.

In 2005, she was appointed to the Superior Court by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. She has been an outstanding trial judge on the Superior Court, presiding over literally thousands of cases and approximately 150 jury trials. She also has been a proven administrator, serving with great skill as an Assistant Supervising Judge for the North Valley District of the Superior Court.

Apart from her career in practice and on the bench, Judge O'Connell also has been an active teacher of the law. In particular, she has taught Trial Advocacy at Pepperdine, her *alma mater*, as well as at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles.

I have no doubt Judge O'Connell, who has been rated "well qualified" by the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary, will prove to be an excellent addition to the Central District's bench.

I commend Senator Boxer for recommending Judge O'Connell, who impressed me very much when I met with her. I thank the President for nominating her as well.

I hope my colleagues on this Committee will support her nomination, and that she can be confirmed as soon as possible.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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