

Senator Barbara Boxer Statement on Nominations of William Orrick and Jon Tigar to be United States District Judges for the Northern District of California
July 11, 2012

Senator Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, I am honored to be here today to introduce William H. Orrick III, and Judge Jon S. Tigar, who have been nominated to the Northern District Court of California.

Bill Orrick is here with his wife Caroline and two of their daughters—Sarah, a second year law student at UC Berkeley, and Libby, a senior at the University of Puget Sound. A third daughter, Katherine, is in South Africa doing conservation biology research.

Judge Tigar is joined today by his wife, Carrie Avery, his father Michael, Judge Jeb Boseberg of the District Court of DC, and William King, who clerked with Jon in the 11th Circuit.

William H. Orrick III

Mr. Orrick brings a depth of legal experience in both the public and private sectors, which will make him a tremendous asset to the Northern District court.

He received his bachelor's degree from Yale University and earned his law degree from the Boston College Law School, graduating cum laude from both schools.

After law school, he spent 5 years providing pro bono legal services for low-income clients in Georgia.

Then Mr. Orrick returned home to the Bay Area and joined the San Francisco firm of Coblentz, Patch, Duffy, and Bass where he spent 25 years as an associate, a partner, and then the head of the firm's employment litigation practice.

Since 2009, Mr. Orrick has worked at the Department of Justice where he currently is Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Division.

Bill considers service to the community to be a hallmark of his legal career.

He spent 11 years as Chancellor and legal advisor to the Episcopal Diocese of California, and 13 years working with the Good Samaritan Family Resource Center, a low-income housing non-profit in San Francisco.

At his law firm he supervised much of the firm's pro bono work, for which he received the San Francisco Bar Association's "Outstanding Lawyer in Public Service" Award.

If confirmed, Bill would not be the first of his family to serve the Northern District. His father, William Orrick II, sat for more than 25 years in the very same seat his son is nominated to today - what an honor it would for him to follow his father to the same Federal bench.

Judge Jon S. Tigar

Judge Tigar has had a diverse legal career, including more than nine years as an exemplary Superior Court Judge, and will be an excellent addition to the bench.

He received his bachelor's degree from Williams College and earned his law degree from the University of California-Berkeley Boalt Hall School of Law.

Following law school, Judge Tigar clerked for Judge Robert Vance of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Birmingham, Alabama. In 1989, Judge Vance was killed by a mail bomb that was sent to his home.

Judge Tigar assisted FBI agents with their investigation at the field office that very evening.

This nightmare experience has had a lasting effect on Judge Tigar's commitment to justice.

He remembers Judge Vance for his fealty to the rule of law, his work ethic, his judicial temperament, his humanity, and his common sense - qualities he will bring to the federal district court.

After his clerkship, Judge Tigar spent a number of years as a civil and criminal litigator in private practice, and two years as a trial attorney in the San Francisco Public Defender's office.

Since 2002, Judge Tigar has served on the Alameda County Superior Court with great distinction, presiding over civil, criminal, and family law cases. In his current assignment, he manages approximately 570 cases.

Before he joined the state court bench, Judge Tigar received an award from the State Bar of California for his pro bono services.

He is a member of the California Judicial Council Advisory Committee on Civil Jury Instructions.

He is an Adviser to the American Law Institute's forthcoming Restatement of Torts, he has lectured at UC Berkeley Law School, and he sits on the board of directors of the Alameda County Bar Association's Volunteer Legal Services Corporation.

His nomination has the strong support of law enforcement officials. The Berkeley Chief of Police writes that Judge Tigar "meets our officers in his home, or wherever he happens to be when he receives a phone call. He has even reviewed faxed warrants while on vacation."

The Alameda County Sheriff writes that Judge Tigar "is a man of integrity who will bring wisdom and expertise to this position."

I would like to submit for the record letters of recommendation I have received in support of Judge Tigar.

In closing, I am proud to be here today with Mr. Orrick and Judge Tigar, who both received a "well qualified" rating from the American Bar Association.

I urge the Senate to move swiftly to confirm them to the federal bench.

Thank you.