

**Statement of Senator Richard J. Durbin**  
**On the Nomination of Thomas M. Durkin to be United States District Judge for the**  
**Northern District of Illinois**  
**July 11, 2012**

I am pleased to offer my strong support for the nomination of Tom Durkin to serve on the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Mr. Durkin has the ability, experience and integrity to serve with distinction on the federal bench. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated strong leadership in his community and a solid commitment to public service. I thank the President for nominating Mr. Durkin and thank the Chairman for scheduling this hearing. I look forward to seeing this nomination approved by the Senate this year.

Mr. Durkin is currently a partner at the law firm Mayer Brown LLP, where his practice concentrates on complex commercial litigation and criminal defense. He received his bachelor's degree with honors from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and received his J.D. with honors from DePaul University College of Law. After graduating from law school, he served for two years as a law clerk to the Honorable Stanley J. Roszkowski of the District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

Following his clerkship, Mr. Durkin joined the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois. He worked there for thirteen years and served in numerous leadership positions, including Chief of the Special Prosecutions Division, Chief of the Criminal Receiving and Appellate Division, and First Assistant United States Attorney. He received the U.S. Attorney General's John Marshall Award for Participation in Litigation.

He joined Mayer Brown as a partner in 1993, and has worked there since then. His practice areas include patent litigation, internal investigations, securities litigation, and white collar criminal defense. He has received numerous awards, including listings in *The Best Lawyers in America* and *Illinois Super Lawyers*. For nearly a decade, he was also the chair of Mayer Brown's pro bono committee.

Mr. Durkin also has an impressive record of community service. He served for nine years on the board of the Legal Assistance Foundation in Chicago. He also taught as an adjunct professor of law at DePaul and at the John Marshall Law School.

Tom Durkin is a consensus, bipartisan nominee and Senator Kirk and I both strongly support his nomination. Senator Kirk and I have each established screening committees in Illinois to recommend judicial candidates to us. Tom Durkin was recommended by my screening committee back in 2009, and he was also separately recommended by Senator Kirk's screening committee last year. The non-partisan American Bar Association has awarded Mr. Durkin its highest rating of unanimously well-qualified to serve on the federal bench.

It is important that the Senate work quickly to confirm Tom Durkin. The seat that he has been nominated to fill has been designated as a judicial emergency by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. Senator Kirk and I will work together to see that Tom Durkin's nomination is confirmed before the end of this year.