

Statement for the Record

Senator Mark Kirk

July 11, 2012

I would like to thank Senator Coons for chairing today's hearing and my colleague Senator Durbin for his leadership on this Committee and on behalf of Illinois.

I offer my strong support for Thomas Durkin to fill a vacancy on the U.S. District Court in the Northern District of Illinois. I am confident that Mr. Durkin will be an excellent judge. His outstanding legal experience and proven community leadership will serve the Northern District well.

Mr. Durkin is currently a partner at Mayer Brown LLP, where he concentrates on business litigation and also handles a wide variety of white-collar criminal matters, especially in the fraud, tax, and public corruption areas. He was also the Chair of the firm's Pro Bono Committee for nearly a decade.

Prior to joining the firm as a partner in 1993, Durkin served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Northern District of Illinois for more than a decade. During that time, he 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. Mr. Durkin received his J.D. with honors from DePaul University College of Law and received his B.S. with honors from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Because of his outstanding experience and record of public service, I submitted Thomas Durkin's candidacy to the White House in July 2011, following the recommendation of my bipartisan judicial screening committee. Senator Durbin had previously forwarded Mr. Durkin's name to President Obama in 2009, based on the recommendation of his screening committee.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan nomination and look forward to working closely with Senator Durbin and members of this Committee to expeditiously confirm Mr. Durkin to the federal bench.

Thank you.