

United States Senate

July 6, 2011

The President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am pleased to recommend the following candidates for your consideration as nominees for the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, ranked in order of preference:

#1. John Tharp is currently a partner at Mayer Brown and is co-leader of the firm's securities litigation and enforcement practice. From 1992 to 1997, Tharp served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Northern District of Illinois, where he prosecuted several high-profile political corruption and drug cases. Among Tharp's successful prosecutions was that of former long-time Cook County Treasurer Edward Rosewell, who pled guilty to engaging in a ghost-payrolling scheme. Tharp also obtained an extortion conviction against former Illinois Senate Majority Leader John D'Arco.

Tharp attended Duke University on an ROTC scholarship, and graduated *summa cum laude* in 1982. He attended the Northwestern University Law School on a full merit John Henry Wigmore Scholarship, and graduated *magna cum laude* in 1990. Tharp served in the Marine Corps from 1982 to 1988, and is the , achieving the rank of Captain and earning the Navy Achievement Medal and the Navy Distinguished Midshipman Award.

#2. Thomas Durkin is currently a partner at Mayer Brown, where he concentrates in business litigation and white-collar criminal defense. From 1980 to 1993, Durkin served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Northern District of Illinois, where he eventually rose to the position of First Assistant United States Attorney. Durkin took a lead role in the investigation and resulting prosecutions in Operation Gambat. Durkin also prosecuted former Illinois Governor Daniel Walker, who pled guilty to charges of bank fraud, misapplication of bank funds, and perjury.

Durkin received his bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois in 1975, and his juris doctorate from the DePaul University School of Law in 1978.

#3. **Joshua Berman** is currently a partner at Katten Muchin Rosenman, where he concentrates in white-collar criminal defense. From 2004 to 2010, he was a partner at Sonnenschein, Nath & Rosenman. Prior to 2004, Berman served the public in a number of capacities. From 2002 to 2004, he served as a senior trial attorney in the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice. From 2001 to 2002, he was an associate investigative counsel on the Webster Commission for the Review of FBI Security Programs, which was formed following the Robert Hanssen espionage investigation. From 1997 to 2001, he served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York, where he prosecuted significant drug and terrorism cases.

Berman received his bachelor's degree Cornell University and graduated *magna cum laude* in 1991. He attended the Northwestern University Law School and graduated *magna cum laude* in 1994.

Members of my bipartisan Judicial Advisory Commission (membership attached) most strongly recommended John Tharp to fill this position after 300 hours of vetting and five major meetings. I hope that you will agree. His name was also shared in a pre-consultation with Senator Durbin.

I look forward to working with you to ensure the candidate you select is confirmed as swiftly as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Kirk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Mark Kirk
United States Senator