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Senate

NOMINATION OF STEPHEN G. LARSON TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now consider Executive Calendar No. 548, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Stephen G. Larson, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for the nomination of Magistrate Judge Stephen Larson to a seat on the Federal District Court for the Central District of California in Riverside, CA.

Judge Larson comes to this nomination with a strong background of public service.

Since October 2000, Judge Larson has served as a magistrate judge for the Central District of California in Riverside. In the 10 years before becoming a magistrate judge, Larson served the public as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Central District of California, where he was chief of the U.S. Attorney Office's Organized Crime Strike Force and coordinator of its Russian Organized Crime Unit.

Judge Larson attended college here in Washington, at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, from which he received a bachelor's of science in 1986. Judge Larson returned to California for law school, graduating from the University of Southern California Law School in 1989.

The American Bar Association has unanimously declared Judge Larson to be "well qualified," the ABA's highest rating.

Judge Larson has the strong support of California's Inland Empire. I have received endorsements of Judge Larson's nomination from a diverse cross-section of the Inland Empire's legal community: from judges and law professors, from government attorneys

and private practitioners, and from Democrats and Republicans.

In these letters, Judge Larson is praised for his "legal knowledge," "fairness," "integrity," "hard work," "temperament," "intelligence," "patience," and "sense of social justice."

Judge Larson was nominated through the bipartisan judicial selection process that we developed in California, a process which I believe is a model for the Nation. Under this system, a committee of lawyers including Democrats and Republicans recommends qualified, non-ideological applicants to the President.

Judge Larson's nomination through this process, along with his impressive record of public service, gives me confidence that he comes to the bench without an agenda and that he will serve the people of California and the Nation with wisdom, integrity, and humility.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise in enthusiastic support of the confirmation of Judge Stephen Larson to the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, one of the Nation's busiest Federal courts, serving seven of Southern California's most populous counties.

Judge Larson is a model of hard work, fairness, moderation and judicial independence. Judge Larson is skilled at bringing all sides together. He is a Republican with broad local, bipartisan support and respect from lawyers, judges and Federal practitioners in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, where he currently serves.

Judge Larson has had a distinguished legal career and a sterling reputation within the California legal community. He was sworn in as magistrate on September 25, 2000. Prior to this position, Judge Larson was a Federal prosecutor and chief of the Organized Crime Section of the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Judge Larson is a nationally known expert in organized and international crime. He was heavily involved in

fighting Russian gangs and helped form the Russian Organized Crime Program in Los Angeles.

Judge Larson earned his undergraduate degree from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. While at Georgetown, he served as a teaching assistant to former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. He earned his law degree from the University of Southern California in 1989. He worked as an associate at O'Melveny & Myers in Los Angeles until 1991, when he joined the U.S. Attorney's Office.

I congratulate Judge Larson on his confirmation vote. And I look forward to what I hope will be many years of service to the people of California and the Nation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Stephen G. Larson, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California?

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. As a Senator from the State of South Dakota, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPRINGTIME

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, Monday, March 20, marks the vernal equinox and the first day of spring. On Monday, night and day are equal in length, marking the midpoint of our climb out of the dark winter into the glorious long days of spring.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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