

PRESENTATION OF THOMAS M. HARDIMAN, NOMINEE TO BE DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA, BY HON. ARLEN SPECTER, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

Senator SPECTER. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I am pleased to introduce a distinguished Pennsylvanian, Thomas M. Hardiman, who is the nominee for the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. He has a B.A. from the University of Notre Dame and a law degree from Georgetown. He has had extensive practice in the Federal and State courts. He has experience in securities litigation, white-collar crime, bankruptcy, energy. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Trial Lawyers, Allegheny County, and the American Bar Association's House of Delegates.

He has been very active in community and civic affairs, is a member of the Big Brothers and Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh, the Duquesne Club. He has helped on Ayuda, a legal aid clinic in Washington, where he has represented indigent Spanish-speaking immigrants in political asylum, domestic violence, and employment cases.

Tom Hardiman has achieved this outstanding record at an early age of 37, and he comes to this Committee within a few days of the retirement of Chief Judge Edward Becker, Chief Judge of the Third Circuit, who became a Federal judge at the age of 37 and has had an extraordinarily distinguished career, and I think that Tom Hardiman at this vantage point has the prospect of an equally distinguished career.

Now I yield to my colleague, Senator Santorum, if I may, Mr. Chairman.

Senator CHAMBLISS. Senator Santorum?

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Senator SANTORUM. I thank the Chairman, and I thank my colleague.

I would just echo Senator Specter's praises for this incredibly qualified, bright, rising star in the legal field in Pittsburgh. We are just very, very excited out in southwestern Pennsylvania that someone of Mr. Hardiman's legal acumen and tremendous community contributions at the age of 38, 39 is willing to serve in the capacity of a Federal judge. He is really considered one of the truly bright, rising stars in the legal community in Pittsburgh, is someone who has been very active, as Senator Specter said, in serving a lot of underserved communities through his legal work, has been tremendously involved in a lot of community and philanthropic things as well as in political affairs.

He is a very well-rounded and bright person, and I am very excited about his nomination and certainly would ask the Committee to act favorably upon it.

Thank you.

Senator CHAMBLISS. Thank you.

Senator Dodd, we are pleased to have you with us today.