



IACP NEWS



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IACP ENDORSES THOMAS NOMINATION FOR SUPREME COURT

ARLINGTON, VA -- The International Association of Chiefs of Police today announced its endorsement of President Bush's nomination of Judge Clarence Thomas to the United States Supreme Court.

IACP's governing body made the decision after carefully reviewing the background and professional record of Judge Thomas at one of its regular meetings on August 10 in New York. It was determined that Judge Thomas is a well-qualified, tough, anti-crime judge who has recognized the problems that law enforcement officers face in combatting crime.

The U.S. Senate has already confirmed Judge Thomas four separate times: as Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the Department of Education in 1981, twice as Chairman of the EEOC in 1982 and 1986, and most recently as U.S. Court of Appeals Judge for the District Columbia in 1990. He graduated from Holy Cross College with honors in 1971 and Yale Law School in 1974.

Judge Thomas has resisted efforts to impose unreasonably

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burdensome requirements on the police and prosecutors or to overturn criminal convictions on technicalities not required by the Constitution, while guarding against infringements of the fundamental rights of criminal defendants.

Among his noteworthy decisions:

-- In United States v. Long, Judge Thomas rejected arguments that a trial judge erred in admitting police testimony during a search of a defendant's apartment, which tended to show that the defendant was dealing in narcotics. Similarly, in United States v. Rogers, he upheld the admission at trial of evidence of a defendant's prior drug-dealing activity.

-- Judge Thomas ruled against a defendant who argued that, at his trial, the judge had improperly instructed the jury as to his entrapment defense. In so holding, Judge Thomas observed that "the government [had] introduced overwhelming evidence of [defendant's] eagerness to sell crack, enough, we are certain, for the government to have carried the burden of proof it needed to defeat [defendant's] entrapment defense." (United States v. Whole)

The International Association of Chiefs of Police is the world's oldest and largest non-profit organization of police executives. Established in 1893, the IACP currently has approximately 12,500 members in 65 nations around the world.

Further information is available from the IACP at 1110 N. Glebe Road, Suite 200, Arlington, Virginia 22201; 703/243-6800.