

George W. Bush Presidential Library

Collection: Counsel's Office, White House

Series: Kavanaugh, Brett – Subject Files

Folder Title: Judges - Northern District, Illinois
- Filip



United States Senator • Illinois

Peter G. Fitzgerald

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Attn: Federal Courts Reporter (5 Pages)
January 9, 2003

Contact: Laura Anne Miller
(312) 886-3506

**Fitzgerald recommends Samuel Der-Yeghiayan
and Mark Filip for vacancies on U.S. District Court
for the Northern District of Illinois**

CHICAGO, IL...U.S. Senator Peter G. Fitzgerald (R-Illinois) announced today that he will recommend that President Bush nominate Samuel Der-Yeghiayan of Vernon Hills, Illinois, and Mark Filip of Winnetka, Illinois, to fill vacancies on the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. The vacancies occurred upon Judge Harry D. Leinenweber and Chief Judge Marvin E. Aspen assuming senior status in June and July, 2002, respectively. Judge Leinenweber has presided on the court since 1986, and Judge Aspen since 1979.

"I reviewed a substantial number of applications for the vacancies on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois," said Fitzgerald. "Judge Samuel Der-Yeghiayan has more than 20 years of significant experience in the federal judicial system and Mark Filip stood out for his unique combination of stellar academic and professional credentials. I am confident that, if they are nominated by President Bush and confirmed by the U.S. Senate, both men will serve as fair and competent additions to the court."

Judge Samuel Der-Yeghiayan

Samuel Der-Yeghiayan was appointed in 1978 as a Trial Attorney for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in Chicago, Illinois. Four years later, Der-Yeghiayan was promoted to the position of District Counsel for the INS Chicago District with jurisdiction over the states of Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin. From 1982 to 2000, he managed one of the largest INS Legal Proceedings programs in the nation and supervised a staff of over 20 government attorneys, including Special Assistant United States Attorneys.

During his tenure with the INS, he served as part of the government team litigating cases in both the U.S. District Courts and the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Since his 2000 appointment to the U.S. Immigration Court in Chicago, Der-Yeghiayan has carried one of the heaviest caseloads in the Immigration Court system. For 20 consecutive years, from 1981 to 2000, he received Outstanding Performance Ratings from the Attorney General of the United States as a U.S. Justice Department Attorney.

-(MORE)-

Fitzgerald judicial recommendations p.2/2

Judge Der-Yeghiayan, 50, earned a B.A. in Political Science from Evangel University in Springfield, Missouri. In 1978, he graduated from the Franklin Pierce Law Center in Concord, New Hampshire, where he was a member of the Law Review Editorial Board. He lives in Vernon Hills, Illinois, with his wife Becky, an Administrative Assistant to the Libertyville School District Superintendent. They have two children, Tara (24) and Jared (22).

Mark Filip

Mark Filip, an Illinois native, attended the University of Illinois where he graduated *summa cum laude* with a B.A. in Economics and History. In 1990, he earned an English Honours B.A. in Jurisprudence, First Class Honors from the University of Oxford, Christ Church College, in Oxford, England. In 1992 Filip received his Juris Doctor, *magna cum laude*, from The Harvard Law School. Filip received the Joseph A. Sears Prize at Harvard in 1991, an award given to the two members of the second year class with the highest grades.

From 1992 to 1993, Filip served as a law clerk for Stephen F. Williams of the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in Washington, D.C. From 1993 to 1994, Filip served as a law clerk for Antonin Scalia, United States Supreme Court.

In 1995, Filip joined the United States Attorney's Office in Chicago, where he served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Criminal Division. As an Assistant United States Attorney, he prosecuted a wide variety of cases in the trial courts and on appeal – including matters such as racketeering; tax offenses; international heroin trafficking; violent and gang-related crime; health care and other white collar frauds; and public corruption.

Filip joined the Chicago office of Skadden, Arps, Meagher & Flom in 1999 as an associate in the litigation department. He was named partner in 2001. Filip's work has focused on federal litigation, and he has represented clients in complex civil litigation matters, both in the trial and appellate courts.

Filip, 36, lives in Winnetka, Illinois, with his wife Beth. Mark and Beth have four sons – Matthew (6), Charlie (4), Tommy (2), and Joseph (8 months).

Biographies of Samuel Der-Yeghiayan and Mark Filip are attached.

###

Biography of Samuel Der-Yeghiayan

Samuel Der-Yeghiayan currently serves as a U.S. Immigration Court Judge in Chicago. Der-Yeghiayan has more than 20 years experience in the federal judicial system.

Der-Yeghiayan began his legal career as an Honor Law Graduate under the Attorney General's Honors Program and was appointed in 1978 as a Trial Attorney for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in Chicago, Illinois. Four years later, Der-Yeghiayan was promoted to the position of District Counsel for the INS Chicago District with jurisdiction over the states of Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin. From 1982 to 2000, he managed one of the largest INS Legal Proceedings programs in the nation and supervised a staff of over 20 government attorneys, including Special Assistant United States Attorneys.

During his tenure with the INS, he served as part of the government team litigating cases in both the U.S. District Courts and the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. He also served on various National Legal Committees, including the committee relating to National Security and Anti-Terrorism. Since his 2000 appointment to the U.S. Immigration Court in Chicago, Der-Yeghiayan has carried one of the heaviest caseloads in the Immigration Court system.

In 1988, Der-Yeghiayan was detailed to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow where he served for two months as the U.S. Justice Department's sole representative on refugee and other matters.

For 20 consecutive years, from 1981 to 2000, Der-Yeghiayan received Outstanding Performance Ratings as a U.S. Justice Department Attorney from the Attorney General of the United States. In addition, he has received Superior Accomplishment Awards as a government attorney and Certificates of Appreciation from the Chicago Bar Association for his contributions to the Chicago Lawyer's Court Handbook. In 1986, he received the Frank J. McGarr Award of the Federal Bar Association as the Outstanding Federal Government Attorney in Chicago. In 1998, he received the District Counsel of the Year Award from the Commissioner of the INS and the Attorney General of the United States.

Der-Yeghiayan is of Armenian ancestry. He was born in Syria and immigrated to the U.S. when he was 19 years old.

Der-Yeghiayan earned his B.A. from Evangel University in Springfield, Missouri in 1975, majoring in Political Science. During his college years, he was awarded athletic scholarships and served as captain of the varsity soccer team. In 1978, he earned his Juris Doctor degree from Franklin Pierce Law Center in Concord, New Hampshire where he served on the Law Review Editorial Board which publishes IDEA: The Journal of Law and Technology.

Judge Der-Yeghiayan, 50, lives in Vernon Hills, Illinois with his wife Becky. They have two children, Tara (24) and Jared (22).

Biography of Mark R. Filip

Mark R. Filip, 36, is a partner at the law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom in Chicago. Filip was born in Chicago and has been an Illinois resident most of his life.

Filip attended the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, where he graduated *summa cum laude* in 1988 with degrees in economics and in history. Filip received various scholarships at Illinois, including a *Phi Beta Kappa* outstanding student fellowship. He played on the University's lacrosse club.

During his senior year, Filip was awarded a Marshall Scholarship to study law at the University of Oxford in England. Filip graduated in 1990 with a law degree (the English Honours B.A. in Jurisprudence), First Class Honors.

Filip completed his legal training at The Harvard Law School, graduating *magna cum laude* in 1992. At Harvard, Filip served as one of the editors of the *Harvard Law Review*. He also was awarded a Sears Prize in 1991, an award given to the two members of the second year class with the highest grades.

From 1992 to 1993, Filip served as a law clerk for Stephen F. Williams of the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in Washington, D.C. From 1993 to 1994, Filip served as a law clerk for Antonin Scalia, United States Supreme Court.

After working as a litigation associate at Kirkland & Ellis in Chicago from 1994 to 1995, Filip joined the United States Attorney's Office in Chicago, where he served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Criminal Division. As an Assistant U.S. Attorney, he prosecuted a wide variety of cases in the trial courts and on appeal – including matters such as racketeering; tax offenses; international heroin trafficking; violent and gang-related crime; health care and other white collar frauds; and public corruption. Filip tried the case of *United States v. James Washington* (95 CR 302), which was the first case in which the U.S. Attorney's Office in Chicago invoked the federal "Three Strikes" mandatory life sentencing statute. He was one of the investigating and trial attorneys in *United States v. Edward Jackson, et al.* (96 CR 815), in which seven corrupt police officers from Chicago's Austin District were convicted of various offenses, including racketeering and narcotics dealing.

Filip also represented the United States in a number of cases before the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit in Chicago. These cases included *United States v. Thomas Maloney*, 71 F.3d 645 (7th Cir. 1995) (affirming the racketeering conviction of a state court judge convicted of taking bribes in murder cases); *United States v. Palumbo Brothers Inc., et al.*, 145 F.3d 850 (7th Cir. 1998) (reversing district court order dismissing much of the racketeering indictment on grounds of labor law preemption); and *United States v. Jesse Evans*, 192 F.3d 698 (7th Cir. 1999) (affirming the conviction of former Chicago alderman convicted of bribe-taking).

While a federal prosecutor, Filip received the U.S. Department of Justice Director's Award for Superior Performance as an Assistant United States Attorney.

Filip joined the Chicago office of Skadden, Arps, Meagher & Flom, in 1999 as an associate in the litigation department. He was named partner in 2001. Filip's work has focused on federal litigation, and he has represented clients in complex civil litigation matters, both in the trial and appellate courts.

Filip has served as an adjunct professor at the Northwestern University School of Law and currently serves as a lecturer in law at the University of Chicago Law School.

Filip lives in Winnetka, Illinois, with his wife Beth. Mark and Beth have four sons - Matthew (6), Charlie (4), Tommy (2), and Joseph (8 months).