

May 25, 2021

Senator Dick Durbin  
711 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Chuck Grassley  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Tana Lin



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Seattle, WA 98111-2728  
(206) 624-2184  
[aclu-wa.org](http://aclu-wa.org)

Michele Storms  
*Executive Director*

Dear Senators Durbin and Grassley:

I write at the request of Senator Murray to inform the Committee regarding Tana Lin's qualifications to be a federal judge, including her work with the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington (ACLU-WA). ACLU-WA is a statewide, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with over 135,000 members and supporters. It is an affiliate of the national ACLU. ACLU is dedicated to defending and promoting civil liberties and civil rights. ACLU policy prohibits any endorsement of candidates for any public office.

Due to this longstanding prohibition against supporting or opposing candidates or nominees for office, we will not be lobbying Senate offices in support of Ms. Lin's confirmation. We are glad to respond to this request for information regarding Ms. Lin so that the Senate may appropriately discharge its advise-and-consent responsibilities, and to inform the public debate around Ms. Lin's candidacy.

Ms. Lin's deep dedication to the rights of all has been demonstrated through her long career, including time as a public defender, attorney with the US Justice Department Civil Right Division and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and legal services lawyer for the poor. In addition, during her time in private practice, she has employed her considerable legal skills in two cases involving the ACLU. Ms. Lin and her colleagues represented the ACLU and over 100 other organizations in arguing that a bar applicant with an old criminal record was fully rehabilitated and should be permitted to become a lawyer, an argument with which the Washington Supreme Court unanimously agreed. Ms. Lin also was ACLU cooperating counsel along with another law firm, legal staff of ACLU and several national immigration organizations on *Doe v. Trump*, in which a federal district court in Seattle enjoined the government from preventing children and spouses of refugees who were already in the United States from joining their family members in the United States.

Ms. Lin's leadership and legal abilities are well-described by this statement from ACLU Staff Attorney Lisa Nowlin regarding Ms. Lin's work on the *Doe v. Trump* case:

Tana Lin was a cooperating attorney on our *Does v. Trump* case and was the lead litigator on that case. I was always impressed by how prepared she was for everything – every brief, every meeting, oral argument – all of it. It was always clear that she had taken the time to think through all the legal theories, all the possible arguments opposing counsel might make, and all the peripheral details. She has a great grasp of the law and is an experienced litigator, and though immigration was a newer area of law to her, she quickly brought herself up to speed on what is a very complex area of law. She was a pleasure to work with, a strong leader, and our clients and team are better for having her on that case.

Ms. Lin also served as a member of the ACLU-WA Board of Directors from January 2016 to May 2021. When our previous Executive Director announced she would be retiring in 2018, Ms. Lin served on the Executive Search committee to hire our new Executive Director. In January 2019 she became President of the board. As President, she facilitated the successful transition from a longtime Executive Director to a new Executive Director. She engaged in a policy review of Board Policies and updated many longstanding policies to be in line with best practices in nonprofit governance. She worked closely with the Vice President and Governance Committee to diversify the board through the board nomination process. She has supported the organization's work toward centering race equity both internally and in its work in the community, legislative bodies and courts, recognizing that communities impacted by racism and poverty face significant barriers to full enjoyment of their civil liberties and civil rights. In short, her service on the Board has been exemplary and forward-looking and has helped lead the organization through a crucial period of transformation.

All at the ACLU-WA have been similarly impressed with Ms. Lin's skill, diligence, judgment, and caring commitment to doing the very best in all of the arenas in which she has worked.

Thank you for your attention. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michele E. Storms', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Michele E. Storms  
Executive Director