



PRESIDENT
RAKIM BROOKS

CHAIR
PAULETTE MEYER

October 11, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairman Durbin:

On behalf of the Alliance for Justice (AFJ), a national association representing 151 public interest and civil rights organizations, I write to strongly support the confirmation of Judge Daniel Calabretta to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California. If confirmed, Judge Calabretta will become the first openly LGBTQ+ judge to sit on the Eastern District of California. In addition to this critical demographic diversity, he will also bring a wealth of experience from his varied professional career that spans the judiciary, private practice, and the government.

A graduate of Princeton University and the University of Chicago Law School, Judge Calabretta clerked for Hon. William A. Fletcher in the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and for Justice John Paul Stevens in the Supreme Court. These clerkships provided him with a valuable understanding of how the federal judiciary operates as well as the qualities that make for a good judge: impartiality, appreciation of the rule of law, and an open mind. In addition to his experience clerking, Judge Calabretta has also litigated both in private practice at Munger, Tolles & Olsen LLP and in the California state government. As a government attorney, and later as Deputy Legal Affairs Secretary to California Governor Jerry Brown, Judge Calabretta became familiar with administrative and constitutional law. His commitment to public service and expertise in complex areas of law have prepared him for the rigorous role on the federal bench.

In 2019, Judge Calabretta made history as the first openly gay man appointed to the Superior Court for the County of Sacramento. Since then, he has served solely on the Juvenile Court and currently serves as Presiding Judge, supervising all judges in juvenile dependency and justice cases. Judge Calabretta's experience in the juvenile courts gives him unique insight into how the judiciary impacts everyday families and the experiences of minors in our justice system. An active member of the California legal community, Judge Calabretta is currently a member of the California Child Welfare Council, the Sacramento County Mental Health Services Act Steering Committee and the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Subcommittee.

Eleven Dupont Circle NW, Suite 500 | Washington, DC 20036 | www.afj.org | t: 202-822-6070

Field Offices

Dallas | Houston | Los Angeles | San Francisco

Judge Calabretta has experience as an appellate clerk, a private litigator, a public servant, and a judge. Further, he has made history as an openly LGBTQ+ judge. Although over 7% of Americans identify as LGBTQ+, there is a dearth of LGBTQ+ judges on the federal bench. As we know, a strong judiciary is a diverse one, because a wealth of experiences and backgrounds enhances judges' fair-mindedness and promotes equity in decision-making. Judge Calabretta would make an exceptional addition to the Eastern District of California, and I urge you to support his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Rakim A.D. Brooks

Rakim Brooks
President, Alliance for Justice