

July 8, 2022

Hon. Dick Durbin
Chair, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Nomination of Roopali H. Desai to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We are writing to express our support for Roopali Desai's nomination to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. We have all had an opportunity to work with or against Roopali in litigated matters or to otherwise follow her professional career. We know Roopali to be an extraordinarily talented lawyer and a tireless worker; but most importantly, we know Roopali to be committed to the rule of law. What we value most in judges is respect for the institution of justice and a commitment to fair play. Roopali has all of those characteristics.

As is apparent from her resume, which no doubt is known to the Judiciary Committee, Roopali has had a distinguished career. She clerked for the Chief Judge of the Ninth Circuit and then quickly established herself as the go-to lawyer for issues of public concern, many of which have involved matters of public safety. It is difficult to identify a legal matter of public importance where Roopali was not involved. Clients seek her out for these difficult cases because she remains cool under pressure, she is smart, persuasive and she has an ability to stay focused. In each case, no matter how high the stakes or how intense the scrutiny, she has advocated vigorously for her client, but has done so fairly, always respecting her adversaries and the court.

We have no doubt Roopali will be an excellent judge. She is careful, thoughtful and anchored by her deep appreciation for our system of justice. While we may disagree on a number of issues and we may ultimately disagree with decisions Roopali will write, we are confident she has the right temperament and the skills to serve on the Ninth Circuit. We recommend her without reservation.

Sincerely,

/s/

Janet Napolitano
Secretary of Homeland Security (2009-2013)
Governor of Arizona (2003-2009)
Attorney General of Arizona (1999-2003)
US. Attorney, District of Arizona (1993-1997)

/s/

Terry Goddard
Attorney General of Arizona (2003-2011)
Mayor of Phoenix (1984-1990)

/s/

José de Jesús Rivera
U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona (1998-2001)

/s/

Laura Conover
Pima County Attorney (2021-present)

/s/

Gabriel Chin
Senior Counsel, Pima County Attorney (2021-present)

/s/

Amelia Craig Cramer
Chief Deputy, Pima County Attorney (2001-2021)

/s/

Lee Stein
Assistant Arizona Attorney General (1999-2000)
Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona (1995-1998)

/s/

Mark Kokanovich
Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona (2012-2018)

cc: Sen. Kyrsten Sinema
Sen. Mark Kelly