



**CALIFORNIA**  
ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN  
BAR ASSOCIATION

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The Honorable Chair Richard Durbin and  
Ranking Member Charles Grassley  
United States Senate  
c/o [Phillip Brest@judiciary-dem.senate.gov](mailto:Phillip_Brest@judiciary-dem.senate.gov) and  
[Brendan Chestnut@judiciary-rep.senate.gov](mailto:Brendan_Chestnut@judiciary-rep.senate.gov)

Re: Letter of Support for the Honorable Rita Lin, Judicial Nominee for  
the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California

Dear Senators Durbin and Grassley:

The California Asian Pacific American Bar Association (Cal-APABA) writes to support the nomination of the Honorable Rita Lin for the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. Cal-APABA represents the interests of dozens of Asian Pacific American (APA) bar organizations in California and the approximately 14,000 APA attorneys statewide to promote justice and equality, advance legal and policy matters that impact the APA community, and enhance the professional development of its members.

Judge Lin is currently a California Superior Court Judge in San Francisco County. She presides over felony and misdemeanor criminal trials, and motions to revoke probation and post-release community supervision. Judge Lin previously presided for two years over a felony criminal calendar where she heard motions to suppress, motions to discover confidential informants and bail/release motions. She also conducted arraignments, preliminary hearings, pleas and sentencings. Judge Lin has built an excellent reputation in the legal community of being hard-working, intelligent, and an effective communicator, all while upholding the highest levels of professionalism and demeanor.

Before being appointed to the Superior Court, Judge Lin had a diverse and impressive legal career. She first clerked for the Honorable Sandra Lynch on the First Circuit Court of Appeals, then entered private practice as an associate at Morrison & Foerster and was promoted to equity partner in 2012. In 2014, Judge Lin answered the call to public service working as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Northern District of California where she prosecuted cases on public corruption, organized crime and narcotics, firearms and child pornography.

Judge Lin has therefore seen the law from many different perspectives—both civil and criminal and as a judge, prosecutor, defense counsel and judicial law clerk. This breadth of legal experience will serve Judge Lin well in whatever situations she will later face on the federal bench.

We have known Judge Lin for years and believe she would be an excellent federal judge. She is composed, passionate and empathetic. Judge Lin has utilized these skills as a Superior Court Judge for the past three years where she has been committed to providing everyone a fair opportunity to be heard.

Judge Lin's commitment to the Asian American and other minority communities is also extraordinary. She is an active member of the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area and the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association since 2004 and is an active member of the California Asian Pacific American Judges Association since 2018. The organizations with which Judge Lin has been involved and the programs and initiatives she has participated in are both numerous and wide-ranging. However, they all include the undercurrent of Judge Lin's passion for promoting diversity, equal access and justice to those who need it most. Judge Lin has an exemplary track record of community service and serving on the federal bench would be a natural progression to her commitment.

Judge Lin's unique background and diverse work experience have given her a perspective and framework that will benefit all those who appear before her. We highly support Judge Lin's nomination and believe she would make a positive impact on the federal bench. We hope that you will do our community the honor of confirming her.

Should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 646-342-4174 or by email at [asit@panwalalaw.com](mailto:asit@panwalalaw.com).

Sincerely,



Asit Panwala  
2022-23 President  
California Asian Pacific American Bar Association