
June 25, 2022

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

Hon. Charles E. 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 Senators Durbin and Grassley:

I support and recommend confirmation of the nomination of Roopali Desai to a seat on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. To introduce myself, I have been a lawyer in Arizona for more than 40 years, and I have practiced in the Arizona trial and appellate courts, at the U.S. District Court, and before the Ninth Circuit. At one time or another, I have represented clients whose interests have fallen on both sides of the political aisle, but currently I probably am more known for representing Republican interests.

I have known Roopali Desai for more than ten years, and I have litigated against her personally. She has all the credentials that qualify a nominee for this high appointment. She is smart and experienced and knows the law. She works hard and is always prepared.

The same likely could be said, however, of most nominees to a United States Circuit Court of Appeals, or they would not have received such a nomination. Thus, let me describe two qualities that I think set her apart for this judgeship: trustworthiness and judgment.

Other lawyers trust her, and she is loyal to the law and to the profession. In my corner of the world, a lawyer's word or commitment to a fellow lawyer must be golden. Hers to me always was. If she said something, she did it. I never needed to confirm her word to me in writing.

What's more, I have found her judgment to be sound. She impressed me as always being able to get to the heart of a case without trouble or fuss. She always cooperated with me reasonably and with an eye to moving a case along efficiently. Lawyers hurt their reputations with each other and in society by needless quibbling or fighting over points that do not mean much. That is not Ms. Desai. I found that she would concede ground she could not defend, size up a legal position or a course of action reasonably and fairly, and discard positions that she could not support or follow sensibly. That does not mean she did not represent her clients zealously. She certainly has proven to be a fierce advocate, but always within the bounds of professionalism and sound judgment.

Let me add a final comment that speaks to her as a person apart from the law. I believe she has a sincere sympathy and concern for the common person, and especially for the poor. That is not a qualification for a judgeship, for a judge must treat all equally – rich or poor. But it does tell you something of her personal character that she has a genuine concern for the least amongst us. To me that matters. I expect it might to you as well.

In sum, Ms. Desai deserves confirmation and to be seated on the Ninth Circuit, and I so recommend her to you.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Very truly yours,

CANTELME & BROWN, P.L.C.



By: David J. Cantelme