

13476 Contour Drive
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

May 9, 2022

Chair Dick Durbin
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Ranking Member Chuck Grassley
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

I write in my personal capacity to proudly endorse Salvador Mendoza for the position of Circuit Court Judge on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. I am currently an owner of Berkes Crane Santana & Spangler LLP, where I specialize in product liability litigation. I have known Sal since 1994 when we both attended UCLA School of Law. I have never had the opportunity to work professionally with Sal since he moved back to his home state of Washington soon after graduation and I remain in California. So, this letter speaks only to my personal experience with him, and the honor it is to call him a friend.

One of the things that I have learned about Sal over the two decades that I have known him is that the person that you meet is the person that he is at his core. From the moment that we became friends during law school it was evident that he is intelligent and has a strong work ethic. But what also became apparent is that his family background and life experiences made him resilient, while maintaining humility and kindness. We spent countless of hours studying and working together on a law review journal, and ultimately becoming co-editors-in-chief. It was easy to work with and study with Sal. He took his responsibilities as a student and editor seriously and was never hesitant to put in the long hours of work necessary to complete an assignment. But at the same time, he brought his sense of humor and perspective to whatever the task – whether it was academic or social. That's Sal. He is who he is through and through.

It was bittersweet when Sal left California to pursue his career in his home state of Washington. Despite many efforts to keep him in California, his heart was always in Washington – that is the home that he loves. It was not just his family he spoke about wanting to be with, but also the farms and land he loves. It was the experiences that he had as a young man that stayed with him

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and raised him into a confident professional that was ready to embark on his new career. Early in our careers, I was in awe of and inspired by his courage to start his own firm, and then pursue his calling as a judge. It has been amazing, but not surprising, to see his professional growth.

Although we are decades from our time together in law school and our careers do not permit us to see each other very often, it is always familiar and comfortable when we finally catch up. As if no time has passed. That is because Sal is who he has always been at his core – intelligent, hardworking, humble, kind, and funny. It is also inspirational to see that those same traits that make him a skillful judge and true friend, also make him a wonderful family man.

It has been a pleasure to see Sal's career develop over the last several decades, and that he is valued for the breadth of experience, knowledge and skill he has to offer our great country. He maintains and fosters integrity and professionalism in his work and is an inspiration to many, including me. He is not only highly respected in the legal profession, but also as a man and will make an excellent court of appeals judge. I strongly urge the Committee on the Judiciary to approve the nomination of Salvador Mendoza to the position of Circuit Court Judge on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Sincerely,

Carmen Santana

Carmen Santana
Attorney at Law

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