



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

July 3, 2024

The Honorable Dick Durbin  
Chairman  
United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Ranking Member  
United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Reference letter of support from presiding judges concerning the nomination of the Honorable Noël Wise, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California; Nomination no. PN1827-118.

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

We, the undersigned, all present and former presiding judges of the Alameda County Superior Court, herein offer our wholehearted support for the nomination of Judge Noël Wise to the United States District Court, Northern District of California. In our role as presiding judges, we have been responsible for the management of one of the largest trial courts in the state and the supervision of its judicial officers. Each of us has worked closely with the nominee and has unique insight concerning her extraordinary skill, integrity, and overall fitness for the challenging work required of district court judges. We are confident that Judge Wise will serve the federal bench with continued distinction.

Judge Wise is among California's most accomplished judges. This is not only due to the wealth of knowledge and experience she has brought to our superior court since her appointment in 2014, but also because of the way she approaches the role of a judicial officer and applies her extraordinary talents to the work of the judicial branch.

In the courtroom, we know Judge Wise as a dignified jurist who exercises the utmost professionalism in the quality of her work. Whether hearing big controversies or small cases, she brings the same strong work ethic, attention to detail, and well-reasoned decisiveness. She is efficient, productive, and collaborates exceptionally well with staff, court stakeholders, and the public. Combined with her steady judicial temperament, Judge Wise has been the obvious choice for some of the most challenging responsibilities on our court. She has been selected to serve as a supervising judge, to lead our appellate division, and to lead our complex civil law departments. These are positions reserved for judicial officers, like Judge Wise, of extraordinary competence and skill.

In California, superior courts are trial courts. Judges preside over individual cases. We create and implement policy through committee work. And we extend ourselves to the communities we serve to educate the public and stay informed of community needs.

Over the past decade, Judge Wise has routinely gone above and beyond these core judicial duties. Her curriculum vitae showcases a distinguished career as a public and private lawyer, in-house corporate attorney, founding law firm partner, and law clerk. It also reveals her deep understanding of what is needed for justice systems to operate at their highest level, and how she has chosen to use her career to advance that goal. To this end, her C.V. can be viewed as an example of how Judge Wise tethers her own view of professional success to the collective success of the judicial branch. It explains why she regularly commits herself to countless activities (beyond the exceptional demands of her work in the courtroom) designed to strengthen legal systems, educate the public, and promote civic learning with young people. Her

numerous teaching roles, speaking engagements, volunteer-work, and writings reveal this extra, exceptional commitment to the profession, and we are constantly impressed by her tireless energy and willingness to share her vast legal knowledge and experience.

We are not alone in our awe of Judge Wise's excellence as a judicial officer. This award-winning judge has gained statewide attention and taken on roles teaching attorneys and judges throughout California on a wide range of issues. She has educated new judicial officers at the state's Judicial College, and taught seminars to seasoned judicial officers on various topics including judicial ethics. In addition to her work on the trial court, she was recruited by the Second District Court of Appeal to fill a temporary vacancy. We were happy to support her work for that court, knowing how well her skill set, including her writing, would match the needs of that Court.

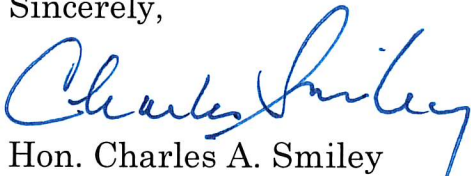
Located in northern California, Alameda County is the second most populous county in the jurisdiction of the Northern District of the United States Court. Judge Wise is familiar with high volume calendars and high-profile cases that come with working in this busy metropolitan region. She is courageous in her decision-making and follows the evidence to rule without fear or favor.

As past presiding judges, we have appreciated having Judge Wise as a colleague. She embodies the best attributes we want for all judges: she is always well-prepared, thoughtful, and considerate of each party's arguments. Her legal acumen and dedication to the profession are undeniable. She is honest, fair, courteous, and beholden to the Rule of Law. Beyond that, we can't help but admire her unrivaled commitment to improving the judicial branch and fostering a more just and informed society.

Letter to the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
Re: Nomination of the Honorable Noël Wise for the United States District Court (N.D. Cal.)  
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Judge Wise is extremely well suited for success as a United States District Court Judge. She is a terrific choice for the federal bench, and we emphatically urge her confirmation. Additionally, we would be happy to expand our praise of Judge Wise's fitness for the United States District Court and welcome additional opportunities to discuss this truly remarkable jurist and public servant.

Sincerely,



Hon. Charles A. Smiley  
Past Presiding Judge, Superior Court 2022-23  
Superior Court of California, County of Alameda

p.p. Charles Smiley for  
Hon. Thomas J. Nixon  
Presiding Judge, Superior Court 2024-25  
Superior Court of California, County of Alameda

p.p. Charles Smiley for  
Hon. Wynne S. Carvill (ret.)  
Past Presiding Judge, Superior Court 2018-19  
Superior Court of California, County of Alameda

p.p. Charles Smiley for  
Hon. George Hernandez (ret.)  
Past Presiding Judge, Superior Court 2006-07  
Superior Court of California, County of Alameda

p.p. Charles Smiley for  
Hon. C. Don Clay (ret.)  
Past Presiding Judge, Superior Court 2012-13  
Superior Court of California, County of Alameda