

May 15, 2023

Senator Richard Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Judge Ana de Alba to the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

Dear Senators Durbin and Graham:

It is my privilege to write in support of Judge Ana de Alba's nomination and urge her confirmation. Over the three years I worked as prosecutor before her, Judge de Alba was consistently thoughtful in her rulings and strived for justice. I was specifically assigned to her misdemeanor department for almost a year, and I was later assigned to her juvenile department for four months.

In her misdemeanor department, Judge de Alba presided over a calendar that averaged close to a hundred cases a day. Due to a shortage of courtrooms, the caseloads ballooned. On a daily basis, Judge de Alba ruled on motions to suppress, motions to dismiss, sentenced defendants, and prioritized resolutions when appropriate. Each and every time, Judge de Alba ruled thoughtfully and reviewed each case cited in our court documents. She held both prosecutors and defense attorneys to higher standards in our writing and argument, and boiler plate motions and oppositions did not suffice.

In her juvenile assignment, Judge de Alba presided over a daily calendar, heard various motions, and conducted various bench trials ranging from embezzlement to sex crimes. Judge de Alba treated every minor with the utmost respect even if the minor acted disrespectfully on the record. Rather than simply ignoring the minors' needs, she would ask the probation department, defense, and prosecutors to come to a resolution and provide a treatment plan to prevent recidivism. Not only did Judge de Alba run her courtroom efficiently, but she was also able to address victims of heinous crimes who had their lives destroyed, the needs of minors who demonstrated a need for rehabilitation, as well as the family for all parties involved.

Judge de Alba carries her heritage proudly, and she would at times speak of her time growing up in Dos Palos, California. Although Judge de Alba has impeccable legal talent, her background

provides her with an insight to understand all sorts of people. Judge de Alba can empathize with victims and defendants as well as attorneys, and she holds herself to the highest of standards.

While I no longer practice in Fresno County, I can safely state that her perspective and thoughtfulness is missed by the county bench. As a prosecutor before Her Honor, I witnessed daily her deep-rooted commitment to justice. Despite her intellect and success, Judge de Alba has not forgotten where she came from and has remained a dedicated public servant. She will be an asset to the federal appellate bench.

I respectfully submit that Judge de Alba will be an outstanding federal appellate judge. Thank you for considering this letter.

Sincerely,



Albert Aramayo