

# CALIFORNIA LATINO JUDGES ASSOCIATION



November 18, 2024

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

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Ranking Member,  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
211 Russell Senate Office  
Washington D.C. 20510

RE: CLJA Endorsement of the Honorable Serena Murillo, Nominee for United States District Court for the Central District of California

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

The California Latino Judges Association, an organization that represents Latinx judicial officers throughout the state and supports a vision of a Judicial Branch with representation that reflects California's rich diversity, high standards of professionalism, and deep respect for the rule of law, provides its highest and most enthusiastic endorsement of Judge Serena Murillo for confirmation to the United States District Court for the Central District of California. Judge Murillo is the ideal candidate, at the ideal time, in the ideal location, as the Latino community expands its social and political influence in California and throughout the country.

Judge Murillo has all the qualities necessary to serve with great distinction on the United States District Court. She has a uniquely diverse personal and professional background and experience beginning with her legal career as an attorney when she gained extensive experience on both the civil and criminal matters. In fact, Judge Murillo served the People of the State of California for 17 years as a prosecutor in the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office. As a Deputy District Attorneys, she tried numerous felony jury trials to verdict, and litigated appellate matters before the California Courts of Appeal, the California Supreme Court, and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. She has an unparalleled reputation for treating everyone fairly, while ensuring justice is done and the People are protected.

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Given her extensive experience as an attorney, it can be no surprise Judge Murillo has served with distinction for 10 years on the Los Angeles Superior Court. She currently serves in the Criminal Division presiding over serious felony trials. She previously managed a general, unlimited civil court in the Civil Division, and also served on the Superior Court's Appellate Division and as a Justice *Pro Tem* on the California Court of Appeal, Second District, in Los Angeles. She has been recognized over and over again for her hard work and dedication to the justice system, including as the recipient of the Honorable Carlos R. Moreno Judicial Excellence Award from the Mexican American Bar Association.

But Judge Murillo's service does not end inside the courtroom. She is a leader, an educator, and a mentor both in Los Angeles County and throughout California. In Los Angeles, Judge Murillo is an elected member of the Superior Court Executive Committee and leads the court's Judicial Education Seminars. She is also the twice-elected Co-Chair of the Los Angeles Superior Court's Latino Judicial Officers Association. Statewide, Judge Murillo is an active member of and leader in the California Latino Judges Association. She also is an active and longstanding member of the Judicial Council of California Criminal Law Advisory Committee and oversees orientation programs for new judges. For years, she has served as faculty for the B.E. Witkin Judicial College where she regularly lectures for trial judges and appellate justices on a variety of legal issues. Needless to say, Judge Murillo is highly respected for her scholarly work, her legal acumen, and her firm but even-handed control over her courtroom.

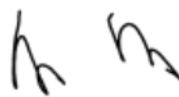
There is no doubt Judge Murillo will continue to serve the judiciary with great distinction as a Judge on the United States District Court. In addition to her extensive experience, her unmatched legal acumen, and her commitment to judicial excellence, Judge Murillo brings a rich tradition of Latinas in the legal profession at a critical time for the Latino community, particularly following the recent national election. Simply put, we need more Latinas in the United States District Courts throughout the country, and Judge Murillo's confirmation will reverberate throughout the Latino community in Los Angeles and throughout the country.

It is for these reasons, CLJA proudly and with great enthusiasm offers its highest recommendation and its unwavering support for the confirmation of the Honorable Serena Murillo to the United States District Court for the Central District of California. Thank you for your consideration of this exceptionally well qualified nominee.

Respectfully,



Hon. Sergio C. Tapia II  
President,



Hon. Jessica M. Delgado  
President-Elect