

CWJ *California Women Judges*

JUDGE MICHELLE WILLIAMS COURT
LOS ANGELES
PRESIDENT

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

JUDGE SERENA R. MURILLO
LOS ANGELES
PRESIDENT-ELECT

JUDGE AUDRA IBARRA
SANTA CLARA
TREASURER

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

JUDGE MICHELLE IALEGGIO
SAN DIEGO
SECRETARY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
JUDGE NICOLE BERSHON
LOS ANGELES

RE: Hon. Michelle Williams Court: Nominee for the United States District Court
Central District of California

JUDGE WENDY MCGUIRE COATS
CONTRA COSTA

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

JUDGE LINDA COLFAX
SAN FRANCISCO

On behalf of California Women Judges (CWJ), we write in support of the nomination of the Honorable Michelle Williams Court for District Court Judge for the Central District of California. We could not think of a more qualified candidate than CWJ's founding President.

JUDGE SONIA CORTÉS
YOLO

JUDGE AMY GUERRA
FRESNO

JUDGE NAHAL IRAVANI-SANI
SANTA CLARA

Excellence as a Practitioner

It is fitting that Judge Court would be considered for a judgeship within the Central District of California given that she is a product of two of the district's finest educational institutions -- Pomona College and Loyola Law School.

PRESIDING JUSTICE TERI L. JACKSON
FIRST APPELLATE DISTRICT

JUSTICE MONIQUE LANGHORNE
WILSON
FIRST APPELLATE DISTRICT

After graduating from law school, Judge Court worked in public service and practiced with several law firms, specializing in national class action civil rights cases. A mentor suggested that Judge Court consider applying to be a fellow at the United States Department of Housing & Urban Development, which she did. She spent two years working on Fair Housing Act initiatives as part of the HUD/Harvard University Kennedy School of Government Community Builder Fellowship, with an emphasis on influencing housing policies affecting underserved communities.

JUDGE ELIZABETH G. MACIAS
ORANGE COUNTY

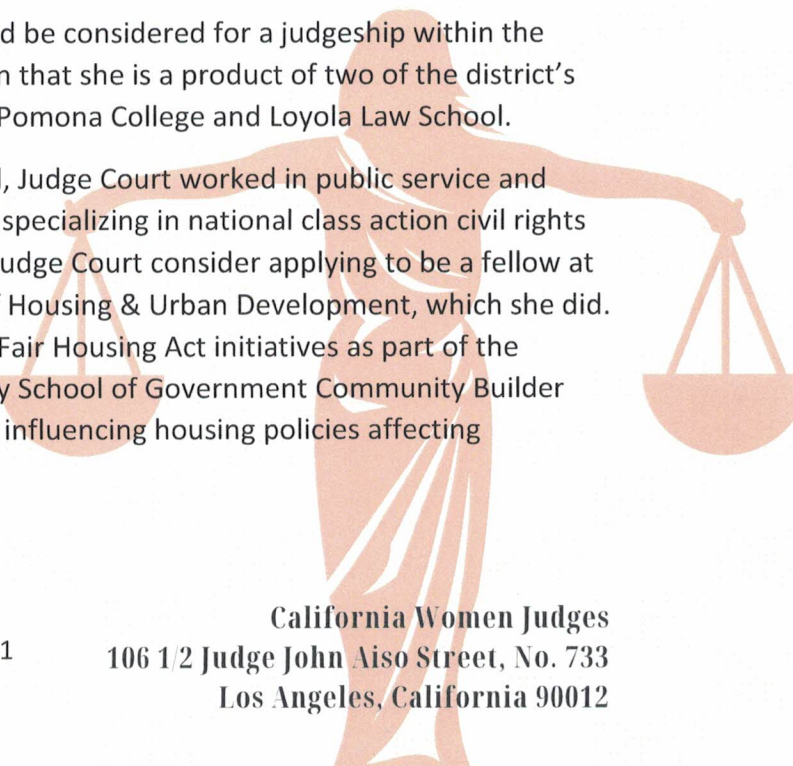
JUDGE ANDI MUDRYK
SACRAMENTO

JUDGE VALERIE NAVARRO
RIVERSIDE

JUDGE A. VERÓNICA SAUCEDA
LOS ANGELES

CMMR. JOHANNA THAI VAN DAT
SANTA CLARA

JUDGE TERRY TRUONG
LOS ANGELES



Page Two

Re: Letter in support of Judge Michelle Williams Court

May 17, 2024

After rejoining private practice for several years, she left to work for Bet Tzedek – House of Justice, one of the premier legal services organizations in the United States. During her nearly ten-year career with Bet Tzedek, she made a difference in the lives of thousands of clients who could otherwise not afford much needed legal services. She began as the Deputy Director of Litigation, became the Director of Litigation, served as the Interim President and CEO, and ultimately served as the Vice President and General Counsel.

Excellence as a Judge

In 2012, former California Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. appointed Judge Court to the Los Angeles Superior Court. Judge Court has excelled on the bench. She began in the Family Law Division, where she seamlessly transitioned to the role of a judge, notwithstanding heavy dockets, many self-represented litigants, and the fact that she had no experience in family-law litigation.

Judge Court then transitioned to the Civil Division, where she currently serves as the Supervising Judge of the Civil Division, after having served for the previous two years as the Assistant Supervising Judge. Prior to her ascension to management, she presided over an unlimited civil courtroom, handling often highly complex and high-profile litigation matters.

Excellence in Serving the Legal Community

Both as an attorney and a judge, Judge Court has continued to serve her community beyond her “day job.” Prior to joining the bench, she served for many years on the Commission for Judicial Nominees Evaluation of the State Bar of California. Judge Court also served on former Senator Barbara Boxer’s judicial selection committee, and she now serves on Governor Gavin Newsom’s Judicial Selection Advisory Committee. She is a founding member and the first President of California Women Judges, which supports and empowers women judicial officers throughout the state. In this as well as other roles, she has worked to ensure that the judiciary reflects the various communities it serves.

She is a long-time member of the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles which awarded her its Distinguished Service Award in 2008, and she currently serves as a member of the Executive Committee of the Litigation Section of the Los Angeles County Bar Association.

Despite her many leadership responsibilities, Judge Court still finds time to chair the court’s Technology Committee. In this role, she guides policy decisions regarding innovation, assists in developing the court’s priorities, designs judicial technology training, and serves as a veritable “Help Desk” for judges with varying degrees of comfort with technology. Indeed, her leadership

Page Three

Re: Letter in support of Judge Michelle Williams Court

May 17, 2024

on technology innovation was pivotal to keeping the doors of the country's largest court open during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, she was appointed to the California Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Ethics Opinions reflecting her statewide expertise in and dedication to judicial ethics.

Her calm demeanor, thorough preparation, and deep knowledge of whatever the subject is serve her well in addressing any audience, answering questions, and keeping the discussion focused. Judge Court is a sought-after speaker for lawyers, judges, and students. Every year, she prepares and delivers the Rutter Guide's update on personal injury cases, which requires a significant amount of work to keep up with new cases and laws and the ability to summarize the cases and updates for presentation.

Her passion for the law, deep-thinking, and commitment to making a difference in the lives of self-represented litigants is reflected in her dedication to the Los Angeles County Law Library, currently serving as the President of the Library's Board of Trustees. Throughout her years on the Board, she has continued to assist the library in forging important partnerships with public interest organizations to provide legal assistance to those most in need.

In 2023, Judge Court was personally selected by Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court Patricia Guerrero to serve a three-year term on California's Judicial Council, the policymaking body of the California courts. As one of only 12 voting judicial members on the Council, her selection by Justice Guerrero speaks volumes as to the high esteem in which Judge Court is held statewide.

Excellence as a Person

The list of Judge Court's accomplishments is long and varied. We strongly believe there are few women judges, much less African American women judges, who have accomplished as much both inside and outside the courtroom.

What we think also bears mentioning is who she is as a person. Judge Court has quiet confidence, exuding an aura of calm and peacefulness. She takes stock of each new environment before deciding how she will approach the situation. She keeps an open mind and empowers everyone around her, whether a litigant, a mentee, or a colleague, to be the best they can be.

While most of the undersigned had previously encountered Judge Court in some context through her varied service on behalf of the California judiciary, through her leadership as Founding President of California Women Judges, all of us have now had the pleasure of coming to know Judge Court as a beacon of fairness, honesty, intelligence, and diligence. She is a

Page Four

Re: Letter in support of Judge Michelle Williams Court

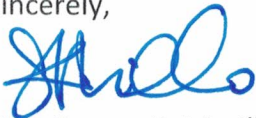
May 17, 2024

natural leader, role model and mentor -- especially for women -- as well as a devoted mother to her two sons, Pablo and Joey, and a supportive partner to her husband Jamie.

On behalf of California Women Judges, we wholeheartedly support the nomination of Judge Court to the District Court for the Central District of California. Thank you for your consideration.

Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at (213) 628-7709 or by email at californiawomenjudges@gmail.com. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Hon. Serena R. Murillo

President-Elect

California Women Judges