



JUDGE MICHELLE WILLIAMS COURT
LOS ANGELES
PRESIDENT

October 31, 2024

JUDGE SERENA R. MURILLO
LOS ANGELES
PRESIDENT-ELECT

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin, Chair
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

JUDGE AUDRA IBARRA
SANTA CLARA
TREASURER

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

JUDGE MICHELLE IALEGGIO
SAN DIEGO
SECRETARY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
JUDGE NICOLE BERSHON
LOS ANGELES

Dear Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Graham,

JUDGE WENDY MCGUIRE COATS
CONTRA COSTA

On behalf of the California Women Judges (“CWJ”), we offer this letter of support in connection with President Biden’s nomination of the Honorable Serena Murillo for District Court Judge for the Central District of California. CWJ, founded in 2024, supports and empowers women judicial officers throughout California. As a founding member of CWJ, Judge Murillo has been instrumental in its successful launch, and we could not think of a better suited candidate to dispense justice within the Central District of California than our organization’s President-Elect.

JUDGE LINDA COLFAX
SAN FRANCISCO

JUDGE SONIA CORTÉS
YOLO

JUDGE AMY GUERRA
FRESNO

JUDGE NAHAL IRAVANI-SANI
SANTA CLARA

Judge Murillo’s extensive and successful experience in both criminal and civil law, first as an attorney and later a judge, represents only a fraction of her infinite qualifications for the federal bench. In addition to her unquestioned reputation for fairness and integrity, what we believe sets her apart is her respect for and commitment to the law and the Constitution, as underscored by the countless hours she has spent providing legal education on a range of topics and before a variety of audiences including judicial officers, future lawyers, and even high school and middle school students.

PRESIDING JUSTICE TERI L. JACKSON
FIRST APPELLATE DISTRICT

JUSTICE MONIQUE LANGHORNE
WILSON
FIRST APPELLATE DISTRICT

JUDGE ELIZABETH G. MACIAS
ORANGE COUNTY

JUDGE ANDI MUDRYK
SACRAMENTO

Judge Murillo is a true daughter of Southern California. Not only was she born here, but she is a product of two of its finest educational institutions – the University of California San Diego and Loyola Law School – and she has spent her entire legal and judicial career within Southern California

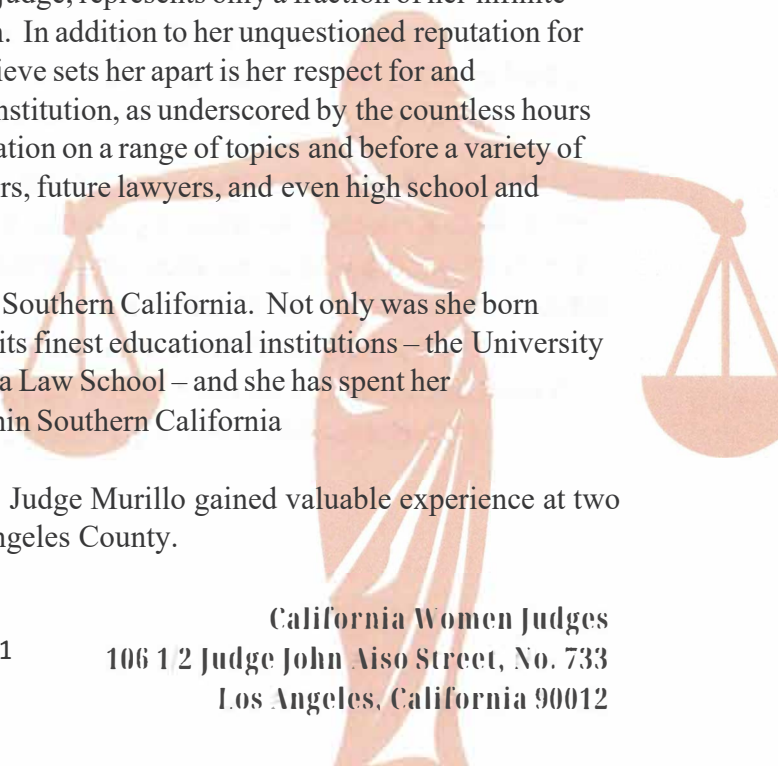
JUDGE VALERIE NAVARRO
RIVERSIDE

JUDGE A. VERÓNICA SAUCEDA
LOS ANGELES

CMMR. JOHANNA THAI VAN DAT
SANTA CLARA

After graduating from law school, Judge Murillo gained valuable experience at two different civil law firms in Los Angeles County.

JUDGE TERRY TRUONG
LOS ANGELES



Page Two

Letter in support of Judge Serena Murillo

October 31, 2024

She then joined the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office where she spent the remainder of her legal career before joining the bench. After a number of years working with increasing levels of responsibility handling criminal matters, including several murder trials, and in recognition of her legal acumen and analytical skills, Judge Murillo was selected to join the office's elite appellate unit, where she handled felony writs in state and federal courts.

She left the District Attorney's Office after being elected to the bench by a majority of the over four million registered voters in Los Angeles County. Though Judge Murillo initially began as a criminal judge, in an effort to broaden her judicial knowledge, she volunteered for a high-volume civil courtroom handling law and motion and other pretrial matters in the personal injury hub. As with everything she does, Judge Murillo threw herself into this new assignment. Within a few years, she became so well-versed in the discipline that she was selected as an adjunct professor of tort law by the USC Gould School of Law. (Not surprisingly, after receiving rave reviews from her students, she was asked by USC to expand her teaching repertoire to include her other areas of expertise -- criminal law and criminal procedure.)

Shortly after joining the bench, Judge Murillo became involved in judicial education. After the passage of California's Electronic Communications Privacy Act ("CAL ECPA") in 2016, Judge Murillo soon became the leading authority on best practices for reviewing search warrants targeting electronic communications, such as emails, texts, and social media communications, and she has continued to share her knowledge with bench officers throughout the state.

In addition to CAL ECPA, Judge Murillo is also considered a statewide expert on recent changes in the law involving pretrial detention, peremptory challenges, and legislative protections against inequalities in criminal prosecutions. Judge Murillo is frequently called upon by courts throughout California, as well as the California Judges Association, to provide updates as to the most current case law and statutory authority regarding these changing areas of California law.

Her skill and insight as an educator led the Los Angeles Superior Court's leadership to select Judge Murillo to oversee the court's Judicial Education Seminars ("JES"), Los Angeles County's multi-disciplinary educational programming for its over 500 bench officers. In recognition of her statewide reputation as a pre-eminent criminal law expert, she was recently chosen by California's Judicial Council as the Vice-Chair of its Criminal Law Advisory Committee, which makes recommendations to the council for improving the administration of justice in criminal proceedings.

Page Three

Letter in support of Judge Serena Murillo

October 31, 2024

Judge Murillo's efforts to enhance the judiciary and the legal profession began long before she joined the bench. As an attorney, she served for several years on the Commission for Judicial Nominees Evaluation of the State of California, assisting the Governor in conducting informed assessments and evaluations of judicial candidates. In addition, she co-founded the Latino Prosecutor's Association as well as its Foundation, which raised scholarship money for deserving high school students in Los Angeles County.

Since joining the bench, she has been involved with the Latino Judicial Officer's Association, serving as its co-chair since 2020, and she has been a member of the California Latino Judges Association for a number of years. She is also a member of the California Judges Association, and has been asked to speak at its yearly conferences on a variety of topics.

Before working together on behalf of CWJ, a number of us had encountered Judge Murillo either as a judicial colleague or a student in one of her many classes. However, through her work as a founding member and President-Elect of California Women Judges, all of us have now had the pleasure of experiencing Judge Murillo's incredible leadership. Judge Murillo is a beacon of integrity, intelligence, and commitment to the equal application of the law. She is an inspirational leader, role model and mentor to many of the newer and even more experienced judges throughout the state. She is also a devoted mother to her three amazing children, Eva, Gigi, and Santiago, and a supportive partner to her husband Christian.

On behalf of California Women Judges, we wholeheartedly and without reservation support the nomination of Judge Murillo as District Court Judge for the Central District of California. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Hon. Michelle Williams Court,
President
California Women Judges