



Fresno County Probation Department

Kirk Haynes, Chief Probation Officer



May 15, 2023

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

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

RE: Letter of Support for the confirmation of Judge Ana de Alba to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

On behalf of the Fresno County Probation Department, I write to express my strong support for the confirmation of Judge Ana de Alba to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

The Fresno County Probation Department provides protection to the community, support for crime victims and an array of services to the Courts. Our department is comprised of over 650 employees, which include Deputy Probation Officers and Juvenile Correctional Officers. As the Chief Probation Officer of Fresno County, I, along with many of my staff, have had the pleasure of working closely with Judge de Alba in her capacity as the Juvenile Court Judge. While serving in her role, Judge de Alba presided over the Unity and Behavioral Health Courts, two of our specialty courts within Fresno County's Juvenile Justice System. She has significant experience as a fair-minded judge and would be an excellent addition to the Ninth Circuit.

Judge de Alba's commitment to and compassion for victims of human trafficking in her embrace of the Unity Court program, demonstrated the core competencies and qualities that the Judicial Officer must possess to lead a Unity Court Team of prosecutors, defense attorneys, probation, and community leaders. For youth who are identified as either at-risk of or victims of human trafficking and find themselves involved in either the dependency or delinquency systems, the program provides choice and voice in the structure around the youth's self-identified goals, with the intent of equipping them with tools and support to achieve those goals. Due to the complex-compound trauma of being commercially sexually exploited—

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these youth do not trust anyone easily. Time and consistency are key to establishing trust and working effectively with this population. Judge de Alba's balanced approach to providing sound judicial discretion and genuine empathy, she presided over the recovery of young lives once lost to traffickers.

Finally, Judge de Alba's balanced judicial approach to criminal and delinquency matters was demonstrated through her application of accountability coupled with opportunity. I am confident that her well-reasoned judicial discretion based on the application of law will serve the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit very well.

Thank you for your consideration of my support of Judge Ana de Alba to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. My support of Judge de Alba reflects the collaborative working relationships that I and my staff at the Fresno County Probation Department cultivated while working with her. She will bring to the Ninth Circuit a perspective of connectedness to community, fairness, and will uphold the rule of law in all matters. She will execute her duties with professionalism, evenhandedness, morality, in an apolitical posture in the furtherance of justice. I may be reached at (559) 600-1294 or khaynes@fresnocountyca.gov if you have any questions.

Regards,



Kirk Haynes
Chief Probation Officer
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