

May 12, 2023

Senator Richard Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Re: Judicial Nominee Ana de Alba

Dear Senators Durbin and Graham:

It is my privilege to write in support of the Honorable Ana de Alba's judicial nomination and recommend her confirmation. I make this nomination confidently, intelligently, and freely, as a Deputy District Attorney who spent a year and a half appearing in front of her, while she served as a Superior Court Judge in Fresno County. In addition to daily calendar appearances, I have appeared in front of the Judge de Alba for countless suppression motions, sentencings, and bail motions, and have no reservations about her ability to serve on the Ninth Circuit.

When I reflect on my time in her courtroom, I am foolishly reminded of the initial trepidation I felt about appearing in front of someone without any criminal law experience. I knew Judge de Alba was highly intelligent and accomplished, but I found myself questioning whether this incoming judge would have the passion for criminal justice that our system so requires. This concern could not have been more misguided or unfounded. From the moment Judge de Alba took the bench, she demonstrated a keen intellect and appreciation for the criminal justice system. She diligently kept current on caselaw developments and feverishly worked to ensure that every person's rights were protected.

While she had an extremely high-volume assignment, Judge de Alba never wavered in showing patience and respect for those in her courtroom. She empathized with victims, ensured that their rights were protected, and gave them a voice in what is often a confusing and foreign process. Further, she did so while never losing sight of the person on the other side – the defendant. Judge de Alba never failed in treating defendants fairly and with respect. She viewed each defendant individually in terms of needs and circumstance but as equally deserving of the protections this country affords us.

Judge de Alba understood and never took for granted the monumental impact that she had on the lives of others. She did not make decisions lightly. Rather, she was prepared, informed, asked

questions, and took the time to ensure she was doing what justice required. At times, the result may have not been one that she preferred but, Judge de Alba recognized her duty above all was to uphold the law and the Constitution and she did so without reservation.

I am confident that, if confirmed, Judge de Alba will continue to serve the people of California with humility and will continue to uphold the Constitution of the United States.

Sincerely,

/s/ Lauren Meegan