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

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

Re: Nomination of Serena Murillo to the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

Please accept this letter in support of the nomination of The Honorable Serena Murillo, to serve on the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

I am the Director of the Los Angeles County Alternate Public Defender's Office, the second largest indigent defense office in California. My office consists of 320 employees, with 238 of them being indigent defense attorneys that represent clients in conflict with the Public Defender's office.

It has been a pleasure to know Judge Murillo. The twenty years I have known Judge Murillo, allows me to provide the committee with invaluable information and insights regarding her character, integrity, empathy, and judicial temperament.

I have known Judge Murillo since our days at Loyola Law School and know her both in a professional and personal capacity. We were not only classmates but became friends when our work study assigned us as student workers at the Conflict Resolution Center. The Center was a brand-new program created by Professor Hobbs. The idea was to offer the low-income

community surrounding Loyola Law School with a place to resolve issues that would otherwise go to court with an expensive price tag. We worked hard to develop the skills to resolve disputes. We brought opposing parties to the table and helped them listen to each other with the goal of a resolution. We were proud of our work and the fact that we learned to listen. A trait that we both used in the criminal justice arena.

As fate would have it, Judge Murillo became a prosecutor, and I, a public defender. There I witnessed her become one of the most respected Los Angeles District Attorneys in LA County. She was known to be a person with an open mind. Someone who would not be biased in her pursuit of justice. She was fair, empathetic and hardworking. She was always prepared and never took short-cuts. These are all traits that she has carried on to the bench.

Although our roles, at times, were adversarial, I have always found Judge Murillo to be a person of integrity with an unambiguous commitment to serving justice. Her ethics are beyond reproach and her efforts to address the issues that confront the criminal justice system are thoughtful, creative, sincere, and unfailingly fair.

In her position as Superior Court Judge, it has been my frequent observation that Judge Murillo when encountering deeply difficult issues, is never intimidated, or discouraged in her role as a representative of the bench. Her character and experience allow me to say, without hesitation, that Judge Murillo is a true leader and it would be a tremendous gain for the federal bench and citizens of the Central District of California.

I have personally witnessed firsthand Judge Murillo's commitment, dedication and strong work ethic to her responsibilities. She is a fair and unbiased arbitrator of the law. She upholds her responsibilities to the position with integrity no matter outside pressure. She is an excellent choice for the federal bench, and I wish her the very best and extend to her my strongest support.

Thank you for this opportunity to make my thoughts known in this important matter and please accept this letter, as my wholehearted support of Judge Murillo.

With Regards,


Erika Anzoategui
Alternate Public Defender