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## RESOLUTION

Hon. Halim Dhanidina (Ret.)  
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November 15, 2024

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

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

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

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee Members:

I am a retired justice of the Court of Appeal for the Second District of the State of California. I am writing to you today to offer my strongest endorsement of the Honorable Judge Serena Murillo for confirmation to the United States District Court, Central District of California.

I have known Judge Murillo for the past 26 years and have worked closely with her during our time as prosecutors for the Los Angeles County District Attorney, judges for the Los Angeles Superior Court, and while she sat as a justice pro tempore during my time on the California Court of Appeal. I have come to know Judge Murillo extremely well on a personal and professional level over the years and I can say without hesitation that she is one of the people I most admire for her skill, intellect, and temperament. She is also a dedicated wife and mother and an overall delightful human being who would make an outstanding addition to the District Court.

I was especially fortunate to try a complex gang murder case with Judge Murillo when we were assigned to the Central Trials unit in 2002. The case had many of the legal and factual challenges typical of gang prosecutions. Judge Murillo's performance at trial was crucial in every aspect. She successfully briefed and argued pretrial evidentiary motions in limine, delicately persuaded fearful witnesses to testify truthfully, and delivered a masterful closing argument. I learned about what it means to be a successful prosecutor by trying that case with her.

As judges for the Los Angeles Superior Court, Judge Murillo and I were both involved in providing continuing education and training for California judges. Judge Murillo was widely held as the foremost expert in the judicial branch on various subjects ranging from electronic evidence and search warrants to bail and pretrial detention. I don't

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believe there is any judge in the state who hasn't been trained by Judge Murillo directly or with materials she has prepared. Her experience presiding over criminal and civil cases has further added tangible courtroom skills to her impressive academic approach to the law.

When I served on the Court of Appeal, Judge Murillo was recruited to sit pro tempore in my division where she performed all of the functions of a permanent appellate justice. She reviewed briefs, presided over oral argument, and authored opinions in virtually every conceivable legal discipline. Her sharp legal mind and exemplary work ethic enabled her to achieve fluency of a wide range of legal issues with relative ease. It is difficult to conceive of a role within the judiciary that Judge Murillo could not master.

There is not a doubt in my mind that Judge Murillo would excel as a District Court judge. Simply put, Judge Murillo possesses the ideal combination of trial skills, brilliance, and wisdom that would benefit the parties that appear before her as well as the community at large. If you have any questions about Judge Murillo or about this recommendation, I welcome further inquiry at your convenience. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [hdhanidina@signatureresolution.com](mailto:hdhanidina@signatureresolution.com) or (310) 985-4886.

Very Truly Yours,

/s/Halim Dhanidina

Hon. Halim Dhanidina (Ret.)