



The Superior Court

111 NORTH HILL STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

May 16, 2024

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman
United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Honorable Michelle Williams Court, Nominee
for the United States District Court for the Central District of California

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

It is with great enthusiasm that we, the supervising judges of five distinct disciplines of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, write to express our emphatic support for the nomination of Michelle Williams Court to serve as a judge on the United States District Court for the Central District of California. We have the distinct pleasure of working with Judge Court as she is currently the supervising judge of the sixth discipline of our court, the civil division. Collectively, we comprise a team of judicial officers delegated with the responsibility to advise and assist the Presiding Judge in performing her statutorily mandated administrative duties. We work together in a collaborative setting to move our large court forward.

Judge Court is a true leader. As stated, she is currently serving as the Supervising Judge of the Civil Division of the largest unified trial court in the nation. Judge Court was

selected for this position, in part, due to her administrative skills, technological knowledge, and being a subject matter expert in civil law and procedure. Her strong management skills are illustrated by her innovative approaches to lessening the civil case backlog due to the pandemic. Judge Court's ability to listen to others, coupled with her exceptional ability to clearly communicate and articulate her ideas and plans, based on her experience as a civil litigator, years on the bench and knowledge of our court system, has garnered the support of our colleagues and broken down long held beliefs about the siloed nature of our work. Under Judge Court's leadership and ability to work collaboratively with others, the civil division now has a shared vision for the future where its cases will be resolved at a more accelerated pace.

Judge Court has demonstrated her leadership through her work on the court's technology committee. She has been a key and pivotal component of the team that navigated this large institution through multiple technological advancements, including entirely new case management system adoption in every branch of our court. Through all this work, Judge Court earned a reputation as a leader who works collaboratively with her colleagues, the justice partners, and the community.

Judge Court's leadership and contributions extend well beyond the Los Angeles Superior Court. She takes every opportunity to share her wealth of knowledge and wisdom with others. She serves the greater community through her efforts in training bench officers throughout the state. This includes developing curriculum on ethics and technology and mentoring new judicial officers. Judge Court's statewide recognition as a leader and how highly regarded she is in the legal community is best evidenced by her appointment by the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court to the Judicial Council of California.

We recognize that Judge Court's legal experience has been in the civil arena. However, this does not change our complete support for Judge Court because she has the ability to quickly overcome the learning curve with any assignment she receives. Particularly, we note that she successfully, and with alacrity, transitioned from lawyer to judge by mastering family law while simultaneously learning how to be a judge. Also, as chair of the technology committee, Judge Court was required to understand the basic jurisprudence and operational components of all the disciplines to ensure that the case management systems meet the needs of all judicial officers and meet the pertinent statutory requirements.

Having worked with Judge Court, and knowing first-hand her legal and leadership skills, we want to extend our resounding and unconditional support. She is a wonderful colleague who brings integrity and respect to the judiciary. Judge Court has the necessary education, experience, legal knowledge, temperament, work ethic and humility to be an exemplary federal district court judge. We offer our wholehearted support for her nomination.

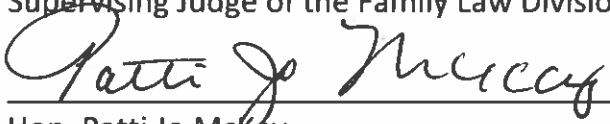
Sincerely,



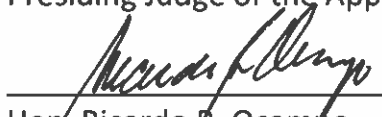
Hon. Akemi Arakaki
Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Division



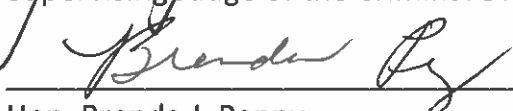
Hon. Shelley Kaufman
Supervising Judge of the Family Law Division



Hon. Patti Jo McKay
Presiding Judge of the Appellate Division



Hon. Ricardo R. Ocampo
Supervising Judge of the Criminal Division



Hon. Brenda J. Penny
Supervising Judge of the Probate and Mental Health Divisions