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May 20, 2024

Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair, Ranking Member, and Members,

I am writing in support of the Nomination of Judge Cynthia Valenzuela Dixon to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

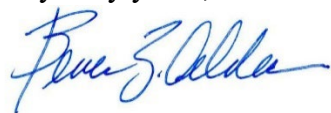
I currently serve as the President of the National Judicial College, the only educational institution in the United States that teaches courtroom skills to judges of all types from all over the country and abroad. Prior to my service as President of the NJC, I served for 22 years in the U.S Coast Guard and was the first Asian Pacific (Filipino) American chief trial judge in U.S. military history. I grew up in the state of Washington, attended Seattle University and the University Washington Law School, and I was stationed across the globe until my appointment to lead the NJC in 2017.

I first met Judge Valenzuela Dixon when we were undergraduate students serving as Gonzaga University Legal Fellows. We have remained in touch since that time. She has a keen intellect and strong work ethic and I have always known her to be fair and thoughtful. Her long career in public service working for the federal government, the state of California, and a national nonprofit has helped to prepare her for this federal judgeship.

She has experience as an adjudicator in her current position as the supervising hearing judge for the State Bar Court of California where she has presided over trials, settlement conferences and other court hearings, drafted decisions and orders, and managed her case calendar. She has also taken courses from the NJC to improve her skills on the bench: two in-person courses, *Decision Making* and *Judicial Writing* and webinars on judicial security and conducting virtual hearings.

I recommend Judge Valenzuela Dixon without reservation for appointment to the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

Very truly yours,



Hon. Benes Z. Aldana (Ret.)
President and CEO

Making the world a more just place by educating and inspiring its judiciary

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