

Ambassador (ret.) Susan Coppedge

July 2, 2024

The Honorable Richard Durbin, Chairman
The Honorable Lindsey Graham, Ranking Member
United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Graham, and members of the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary:

I write to express my overwhelming support for Judge Noël Wise's nomination to the Northern District of California. It is a deeply personal thing to endorse someone for a role that has such significant import. I am doing so because I have every confidence that Judge Noël Wise will be an impartial, fair, and stellar federal judge. I say this with the firm conviction that comes with knowing Noël for nearly three decades both personally and professionally.

I met Judge Wise early in my legal career, right after I completed my own judicial clerkship with U.S. District Court Judge William C. O'Kelley in the N.D. of Georgia. Noël, who had finished her clerkship in Florida, and I were each selected to join the United States Department of Justice through the Honors Program in 1994. We were both trial lawyers in the Environment and Natural Resources Division and worked on environmental cases of national significance. Later we each served at different U.S. Attorneys Offices, she in San Diego, and me in Atlanta. With my knowledge of her work, I can say that Judge Wise has always been thoughtful, deliberate and a brilliant advocate.

Judge Wise and I both spent time in the private sector and have continued to be deeply committed to our communities and country through public service. I served during both President Obama's and President Trump's Administrations as the Ambassador-at-Large for the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons at the State Department and continue my service with respect to supporting survivors of human trafficking as a Board Member for the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and a member of the Council for Responsible Social Media. Just as combatting human trafficking and the on-line safety of our children are non-partisan issues, the administration of justice is dependent on those who can be fair and impartial arbiters of justice. Judge Wise fits the bill!

Judge Wise's community service extends beyond her current role as a California Superior Court Judge in Alameda County, which she has held for ten years. Her dedication to underserved populations includes her board work at Girls Inc. of Alameda County, and the Alameda Food Bank. I can tell you that behind her academic and career qualifications, Noël is hands down one of the hardest-working, most diligent, compassionate, and efficient people you could ever meet. She is an exceptional writer, a deep thinker, and an active listener. Her ethics are beyond reproach. Her moral compass is clear. It is perhaps for all these reasons that I know Judge Wise is respected by people, regardless of their political affiliation. I have appeared in front of dozens of federal judges over the course of my career. I am certain that none are better jurists than Judge Wise.

Not only can you see from her experience but also from the letters of support, Judge Wise is highly qualified for the position of U.S. District Court Judge. I close by encouraging this committee to recommend and advance Judge Wise's nomination to the full Senate for confirmation.

Sincerely,


Susan Coppedge