

May 20, 2024

U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
c/o Taylor Gibson
Counsel, U.S. Senator Lephonza Butler
Sent via email: Taylor_Gibson@judiciary-dem.senate.gov

Re: Support of Judge Michelle Williams Court for Confirmation as U.S. District
Judge for the Central District of California

Dear Senator Butler:

On behalf of the affiliate bar associations part of the Los Angeles County Unity Bar, the Orange County Unity Bar, the Santa Barbara County Unity Bar, the Ventura County Unity Bar, and the Inland Empire Unity Bar, we offer this letter to express our support with respect to President Joseph Biden's nomination of Los Angeles Superior Court Supervising Judge-Civil Michelle Williams Court to the United States District Court for the Central District of California. The Unity Bars in Southern California are an alliance of specialty bar associations dedicated to promoting diversity in the judiciary, advancing equity and inclusion in the legal profession, and building collaboration among members of the legal community.

Judge Williams Court is a highly qualified candidate who will strive to champion equal justice in the Central District. Judge Williams Court is a wonderful support and representative of the diverse legal community of Southern California. She brings a well-rounded legal background to the bench, serving as a government lawyer with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, in civil private practice, and importantly, in her role as vice-president and general counsel to Bet Tzedek Legal Services, a crucial nonprofit legal service group in Southern California.

While serving on the Los Angeles Superior Court (LASC), Judge Williams Court was appointed Supervising Judge-Civil for the largest trial court in the United States. She has been instrumental in the Technology Committee for LASC, serving as chair, and is highly regarded for her work in gaining greater access to justice for litigants. She also works to support the Judge *Pro Tem* program and the Small Claims division of LASC.

Judge Williams Court embodies the qualities the Unity Bar is founded upon. She is humble, empathetic, and thoughtful. She reflects the richness and diversity of our Southern California community and strengthens our judicial institutions.

We offer our utmost support of Judge Williams Court, as leaders of the Los Angeles County Unity Bar, the Orange County Unity Bar, the Santa Barbara County Unity Bar, the Ventura County Unity Bar, and the Inland Empire Unity Bar, and urge her confirmation to the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

Sincerely,

Los Angeles County Unity Bar

Elizabeth Hernandez
President
Mexican American Bar Association

Stephanie E. Story
President
Italian American Lawyers Association

Colin Kawaguchi
President
Japanese American Bar Association

Alexander Manglinong
President
Philippine American Bar Association

Ronni Whitehead Otieno
President
Black Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, Inc.

Nadine Tan
President
Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association

Sara Haji
Judicial Evaluations Co-Chair
South Asian Bar Association of Southern California

Michael H. Yi
President
Korean Community Lawyers Association

Orange County Unity Bar

Krystal Anderson
President
Iranian American Bar Association (Orange County)

Tremayne Wilson
President
Thurgood Marshall Bar Association

Afsha Rendra and Maria Beg
Co-Presidents
Muslim Bar Association of Southern California

Sara Haji
Judicial Evaluations Co-Chair
South Asian Bar Association of Southern California

Ventura County Unity Bar

Monique L. Fierro
Co-Chair
Ventura County Unity Bar

Santa Barbara County Unity Bar

Beatriz P. Flores and Teresa Martinez
Co-Founders & Co-Chairs
Santa Barbara County Unity Bar

Inland Empire Unity Bar

Michael Fermin

Chair

Inland Empire Unity Bar