



March 1, 2024

Senate Judiciary Committee
c/o Hon. Senator Laphonza Butler.
Senator for the Great State of California
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Updated Letter of Endorsement for Judge Dena Coggins for Senate Confirmation to the Eastern District of California

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of the Wiley W. Manuel Bar Association (Wiley Manuel) and its Judicial Nomination Evaluation Committee for the County of Sacramento, we write this updated letter of support for Judge Dena Coggins for Senate confirmation to the Eastern District of California.

Wiley Manuel stands by and reaffirms the factual representations and endorsement of Judge Coggins as stated in its November 9, 2021 letter, which is attached hereto.

Since Judge Coggins' appointment to the California Superior Court of Sacramento County, she has acquitted herself with distinction among her colleagues and has mentored newer judges. Judge Coggins is an excellent judge.

Judge Coggins has shown, through her conduct, that each and every reason why we recommended her in 2021 remains the same and been fortified since. **There is no one more fitting for elevation to the federal judiciary in our region than her.**

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ryan Harrison". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Ryan Harrison, Sr.
Chair of the Judicial Nomination Evaluation Committee
Wiley W. Manuel Bar Association
(m) 916-281-4024



November 9, 2021

Hon. Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States of America
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW,
Washington, DC 20500

Hon. Kimberly J. Mueller
Presiding Judge,
Eastern District of California
501 I Street, Suite 4-200
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Endorsement of Judge Dena Coggins for Appointment as Federal Judge to the Eastern District of California

Dear President Biden and Judge Mueller:

On behalf of the Wiley W. Manuel Bar Association (Wiley Manuel) and its Judicial Nomination Evaluation Committee for the County of Sacramento, we write this letter to support the application of Judge Dena Coggins for appointment and confirmation to the Eastern District of California. Wiley Manuel, through its judicial appointments committee, was asked to review the qualifications of Judge Coggins and provide a recommendation for appointment. We are pleased to advise that we find Judge Coggins to be an extremely well qualified candidate for the position of Federal Judge. Indeed, Judge Coggins represents the very best among us.

Wiley Manuel is the African American bar association of Sacramento County. Founded in 1977, its mission is to address the concerns of the black community and support the black lawyers and law students in the Sacramento region. Wiley Manuel's members play a vital role in the Sacramento legal community, and beyond. As Chair of the Judicial Nomination Evaluation Committee and as President-Elect of this esteemed bar association, I am grateful to have the opportunity to write this letter of support for Judge Coggins.

Judge Coggins has distinguished herself as a judicial officer, public servant, attorney, and mentor throughout her legal career. I first met her when I appeared before her when she was an administrative law judge. She presided over a 10-day trial involving multiple expert witnesses. In that case, I represented a school district in its effort to terminate the employment of a high school teacher who had made romantic solicitations via Instagram to his current and former students. The teacher mounted a novel defense. He argued that his conduct was on account of a mental disability that rendered him temporarily insane and that he had since found effective treatment for the disorder. Therefore, terminating his employment was tantamount to disability discrimination. The

teacher's argument benefitted from some legal and factual support. The trial also occurred during the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, which produced additional logistical issues Judge Coggins had to manage. Throughout the trial Judge Coggins was a consummate professional. She was unbiased in her rulings and she put the witnesses (many of whom were victimized teenaged girls) at ease. In fact, this was my first trial, and she made the experience for me both valuable and smooth. On some issues she ruled against us, and on other issues she ruled for us. All her rulings were the correct decisions. I left that trial with the newfound desire to become a trial attorney and I have made career decisions to accomplish this goal. I owe this to Judge Coggins.

Judge Coggins's nearly 14-year legal career has taken her to top-tier law firms, the California Governor's Office, the California Office of Administrative Hearings, the California Victim Compensation Board, and the Superior Court of California. Her broad experience will provide her with the depth and range essential to inform the judgment of a federal judicial officer to make decisions that reinforce respect for the rule of law and the judicial system. Judge Coggins is eminently qualified for the federal bench. But more than her qualifications, who she is as a person ought to drive consideration squarely in her favor.

Judge Coggins positively influences those in her charge. This speaks well for the character of a person. Two of the three immediate past presidents of Wiley Manuel have worked under her supervision. Here is what they have to say:

Past President Carmen Nicole Cox states:

When Judge Coggins was a litigation associate at a law firm, she was a consummate professional. Judge Coggins was thoughtful, patient, gracious, and generously interacted with subordinates, peers, and supervisors. Judge Coggins is intellectually curious, and she demonstrates commitment to reaching back and helping others. Judge Coggins was essential in helping me transition to the Governor's Office. She opened a door for me to walk through and achieve success. I am deeply grateful to her.

Past President Jasmine Turner-Bond states:

I have known Judge Coggins for several years now and met her when she worked at the California Victims Compensation Board. While working with her there in a quasi-judicial position, Judge Coggins exuded justice and fairness. Those who have crossed paths with her professionally note that she is an excellent lawyer with outstanding character and wisdom beyond her years. Personally, I could not ask for a better friend and confidant.

Judge Coggins, just in the way she performs her duties as a lawyer and jurist, makes an indelible impact upon the people who engage her. Her tact, grace, intellect, and character leave an unforgettable impression. Her very presence on the bench will inspire confidence in our legal system, which is essential for our great democracy succeed and thrive. We currently find ourselves in a pivotal moment when confidence in our representational democracy and our system must be

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uplifted. Judge Coggins has and will continue to move the needle forward in this regard as a byproduct of her natural disposition.

It is for these reasons we find at this present time, Judge Coggins to be extremely well qualified for the position of federal judge. Should there be any question regarding this endorsement please do not hesitate to call me.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ryan Harrison, Sr.", written in a cursive style.

Ryan Harrison, Sr.
President-Elect
Chair of the Judicial Nomination Evaluation Committee
Wiley W. Manuel Bar Association
(m) 916-281-4024

Cc: David Casey <dcasey@cglaw.com>