

February 13, 2023

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin, Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary, United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary, United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Monica Almadani to United States District Judge

Dear Senators Durbin and Grassley:

It is an honor to have the opportunity to write you and express my support for the appointment of Monica Almadani to the United States District Court for the Central District of California (CDCA). I ask that you consider my support for Ms. Almadani based on the more than twenty years of experience I have as a federal prosecutor. I started my career as an Assistant Staff Judge Advocate in the United States Air Force, where I prosecuted general and special courts martial and later oversaw the prosecution of many more as a Chief of Military Justice. After serving in the Air Force, I spent more than a decade as an Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) in CDCA prosecuting public corruption and civil rights cases, and receiving multiple Attorney General and Directors awards for my handling of those cases. For approximately the last seven years, I have prosecuted civil violations of our federal securities laws as a Senior Trial Counsel for the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.


I first met Monica in 2012 when she became an AUSA in the General Crimes Section of the Criminal Division. Not long after she started, it became clear that she would eventually join me in the Public Corruption and Civil Rights Section, so I began mentoring her and offering my help with her cases. In addition to her excellent legal writing and research skills, what stood out immediately was Monica's respect for my experience as a prosecutor and her willingness to accept my guidance, even when there was no clear "right" answer. She had a humility and willingness to listen to advice that made her very easy to work with and quickly develop as a prosecutor.

My observation of Monica's hard work and dedication early on was the main reason I later agreed to second-chair a sex trafficking case that she handled and appeared destined to go to trial against two very aggressive Federal Public Defenders. Indeed, you will see that in *United States v. Davis, et al.*, 2:13-cr-00589-CAS (C.D. Cal. 2013), there were over 200 docket entries in that case in less than two years. The defense continued to file motions attacking several key pieces of evidence and, because I joined the case late, it fell to Monica to write the most crucial briefs. In addition, due to the nature of the allegations, our victims presented a number of challenges. Not only were they very hesitant to testify against the defendants, their lifestyles made it very hard to keep track of their whereabouts as the trial date approached. All of this would have rattled many prosecutors, but Monica remained poised and focused the entire time. She also showed that she was able to think strategically and was instrumental in convincing one of the defendants to cooperate, which ultimately led to both defendants pleading guilty and receiving lengthy sentences.

Having served as a Chief of Military Justice in the Air Force and as an Acting Deputy Chief of General Crimes at the United States Attorney's Office, I have had the pleasure of supervising many young prosecutors, civilian and military. Based on my observations while working with her, I can say without hesitation that Monica was one of the finest prosecutors I have come across. She is smart, honest, hardworking, respectful, and has a pleasant demeanor, all of which will make her an excellent judge with a perfect temperament.

In summation, I have the highest regard for Monica personally and professionally and give my highest endorsement to her nomination to become a federal district court judge. Again, it is an honor to have the opportunity to write to you and express my support. Please feel free to contact me, if you would like to discuss Monica's nomination and qualifications further with me.

Sincerely,

  
Douglas M. Miller