



BENTON COUNTY WA
Prosecuting Attorney

ANDY MILLER
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

7122 West Okanogan Place, STE A230
Kennewick, Washington 99336

RYAN K. BROWN
CHIEF DEPUTY, CIVIL

(509) 735-3591

TERRY J. BLOOR
CHIEF DEPUTY, CRIMINAL

786-5608 736-3066
Prosser Fax

JULIE E. LONG
CHIEF CRIMINAL DEPUTY

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GINNY M. BADDLEY
ADMINISTRATOR

CHERYL L. POCHERT
LS SUPERVISOR

DEPUTIES

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ANITA I. PETRA
MEGAN A. KILLGORE
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TY J. ALBERTSON
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BROOKE A. AMSTER
RYAN K. REHBERG

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman
SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member
SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Letter of Support for Judge Salvador Mendoza

Dear Senators Durbin and Grassley:

I am proud to support Judge Salvador Mendoza's nomination for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. I have known Judge Mendoza since shortly after he graduated from law school. I can attest that he has the work ethic, legal skills, and sense of fairness that is needed for this court.

My belief in Judge Mendoza comes from many sources, including my years as his courtroom adversary. I was the Elected Prosecutor for Benton County while Judge Mendoza represented defendants charged by our office. I personally prosecuted a number of cases with Judge Mendoza on the other side and also supervised over ten different deputy prosecutors who had cases with him. We all had the same experience with him; he was a formidable but fair opponent.

While acting as a defense lawyer, Judge Mendoza was always prepared on his cases, from his legal research on pretrial motions to his factual arguments to juries. Our office was especially impressed with his professional and respectful treatment of witnesses, both during pretrial interviews and during the trial itself.

Judge Mendoza carried these qualities to the bench when he was appointed Superior Court Judge for Benton and Franklin counties. I personally appeared before him on a number of cases, including a very challenging and complicated murder case. Judge Mendoza made a number of pretrial evidentiary rulings, which reflected thorough legal research and a keen understanding of

the law. Other lawyers had the same experience with him as a Judge. He was always prepared, always knew the law, and always made legally sound decisions

Just as important was his treatment of the lawyers and parties who appeared in front of him. I saw that Judge Mendoza was open-minded at the beginning of each case and was fair to everyone. He treated all with respect while maintaining a professional decorum within the courtroom. Again, this was not just my experience. His treatment of the lawyers, parties and witnesses who appeared in his court earned him an excellent reputation for judicial temperament. While I did not appear in front of him after his appointment to the federal bench, his reputation as a federal judge was consistent with my experience before him in state court.

The importance of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals demands that its judges come from the best of the best. Judge Salvador Mendoza meets that standard and would be an excellent addition to the Court.

Very truly yours,



ANDY MILLER
Prosecuting Attorney