

Kenneth M. Hohenberg

3900 S. Green Street
Kennewick, WA. 99337

May 7th, 2022

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

The Honorable Chuck E. Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the
Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Letter in support of Judge Salvador Mendoza Jr., nominee for United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

My name is Ken Hohenberg, and I am the Vice President of the Kennewick Board of Port Commissioners. Previously, I held the title of Kennewick, Wa Chief of Police for 18 years, serving as a police officer for a total of nearly 44 years. I write to you and the Senate Judiciary Committee today in support of the nomination of Judge Salvador Mendoza Jr. to serve as a Circuit Court Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

I have known Judge Mendoza Jr for over 20 years, and we served on the United Way Board together. Moreover, through my role as Police Chief, I worked closely with Judge Mendoza and other community leaders in the tri-cities to create the Benton and Franklin Counties drug courts. From these experiences, I can personally attest to Judge Mendoza's brilliance, fairness, temperament, and commitment to serving the community.

As a 44-year police officer, I recognize the immense impact of our state and federal courts on public safety, the trust of the American people, and our communities in nearly all facets of life. Throughout my years, as a police officer and police chief, I have observed Judge Mendoza on numerous occasions, including for some quite complicated and difficult cases. Judge Mendoza runs a civil and respectful courtroom, treats all parties with integrity and care, is impartial and fair, is transparent and clear, and has a profound understanding of the law. He is a man whose judgment, principles, and character I praise.

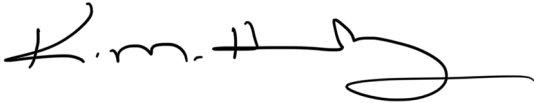
Throughout his career as an attorney and state and federal judge, Judge Mendoza has earned the highest degree of respect from myself and my colleagues in law enforcement, attorneys throughout the state of Washington and beyond, his fellow judges, and the communities that we both serve.

Like myself, Judge Mendoza Jr. is a product of public institutions of higher learning, as he graduated from the University of Washington and the UCLA School of Law. I have seen him excel as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Washington, a Deputy Prosecutor in Franklin County, Washington, a private practice attorney, a judge and a judge pro-tem in numerous Washington state courts, and a federal District Court judge.

It is also worth uplifting that when Judge Mendoza was nominated to the District Court for the Eastern District of Washington in 2014, he was confirmed with well-deserved bipartisan support and received an aye vote from 92 of 96 voting Senators. Additionally, it is important to note judges from the Eastern District of Washington are severely underrepresented on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. It is vital for our communities to be reflected on the federal bench, and Judge Mendoza will bring needed geographic diversity to the Circuit Court.

I am honored to support Judge Mendoza Jr.'s nomination, and I urge the Senate to confirm him.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Hohenberg", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Ken Hohenberg
Kennewick Board of Port Commissioner
Former Kennewick Chief of Police