



The Superior Court

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

CHAMBERS OF

JAMES R. BRANDLIN, JUDGE

(PERSONAL)

October 15, 2021

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I am pleased and honored to submit this enthusiastic letter of support for the confirmation of Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Maame E. Frimpong to the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

I first met Judge Frimpong in 2016 when she was assigned to serve under my supervision in the Criminal Division in the Central District. At that time, I was one of the Supervising Judges of the Criminal Division and oversaw the criminal workload of almost 300 criminal and traffic courts countywide.

I was aware of her impeccable academic credentials having graduated with an *A.B. Degree, magna cum laude* from Harvard University, and a *J.D. Degree* from Yale Law School where she served as an Editor for the *Yale Law Journal* and served as a supervisor in the Community Services Legal Clinic, and the Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic. I was also aware that she had clerked for a year with the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals and had experience in the U.S. Department of Justice and in private practice in California.

What I didn't know was whether this academic superstar would be able to handle a high-volume state criminal law courtroom where she was expected to handle over 250 cases a day under incredible pressure and deliver both quality decisions and keep up with an incredibly stressful volume. I am pleased to report that Judge Frimpong greatly exceeded my expectations. She settled into her role quickly and became one of our premier, "go-to judges." Within a very short period of time, she became one of our judicial instructors and began mentoring newer judges. She also served, and continues to serve, in leadership roles in local and state judicial committees and bar associations.

Judge Frimpong's meteoric rise on the Los Angeles Superior Court is legendary. Within two short years she became the Assistant Supervising Judge of our Traffic Division and the Site (Supervising) Judge of the Metropolitan Courthouse which handles more than 1/3 of the entire traffic caseload in Los Angeles County.

By the end of 2018, she was appointed as the Assistant Supervising Judge over all limited jurisdiction cases and began supervising dozens of judges, most of whom had longer judicial tenure. Judge Frimpong has confidence, compassion, incredible organizational skills, keen intellect, humility, and grace. She is also renowned for being neutral, impartial, nonpartisan, and nonideological in her rulings and interactions with others.

With over 40 years of experience in the justice system as a retired judge, retired deputy district attorney and retired deputy sheriff, I think I know what it takes to be a good judge. Judge Maame Frimpong has all the requisite qualities to become a great federal judge. There are no finer candidates.

Sincerely,



Hon. James R. Brandlin (Ret.)
Judge of the Superior Court
Los Angeles County