

The Superior Court  
OF THE  
State of California  
SAN DIEGO

Chambers of  
CARLOS O. ARMOUR  
Judge of the Superior Court

Mailing Address  
Post Office Box 122724  
San Diego, California 92112-2724

November 22, 2022

SENT VIA EMAIL  
AND U.S. MAIL

The Honorable Dick Durbin, Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: Letter of Support for the Honorable James E. Simmons, Jr.,  
Nominee for the United States District Court for the Southern  
District of California**

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Superior Court Judge James E. Simmons, Jr., nominee to U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California. I have known Judge Simmons for over fifteen years professionally and consider him to be eminently qualified for this position and has my emphatic support.

I first met Judge Simmons when I was a supervisor in the San Diego County District Attorney's Office. Judge Simmons was a Deputy assigned to a specialized violent crime unit and I became acquainted with him through his reputation as an outstanding trial lawyer. Judge Simmons quickly set himself apart from others, with his outstanding trial skills, attention to detail and pleasant manner. His ability to handle some of the most complex and high-profile cases while maintaining the highest level of professional and ethical conduct earned him local recognition. This is exemplified by the numerous accolades that Judge Simmons received during his tenure in the District Attorney's Office.

Since his appointment to the Superior Court by California Governor Jerry Brown in November 2017, Judge Simmons has maintained his commitment to excellence in his new role as a jurist and I have been fortunate to sit alongside him in the Court's North County Branch. Indicative of how his fellow colleagues view his work ethic and leadership, after only a few short years on the bench Judge Simmons was selected earlier this year to serve as Supervising Judge of

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the North County Branch, a court with over thirty Judges that handles the entire spectrum of civil and criminal cases.

Judge Simmons will make an excellent District Court Judge for the following reasons: He appears to be in excellent health and ready to take on the challenge of the District Court. He is familiar with the demands of the courtroom and the long hours of concentration necessary to follow the flow of evidence in trial. He enjoys the dynamics of a high-profile case yet recognizes that more mundane judicial duties must be handled with equal aplomb and attention to detail. He has a strong work ethic and is willing to work long hours if necessary. His years in practice and on the Bench have prepared him to work under pressure to resolve complex issues of law and evidence. In addition, he is acutely aware of the impact that his decisions have on others and exercises his discretion in an informed, fair, and judicious manner.

Scrutiny of Judge Simmons's personal and professional conduct will reflect favorably on his character as a nominee for confirmation to the District Court. He has taken advantage of educational opportunities to reach the goals that he has set for himself. He has conducted his personal and professional affairs in a manner that have reflected positively on he and his family.

Judge Simmons's conduct on the bench is in the best tradition of a judicial officer. He is committed to preserving a system of justice which is the cornerstone of our society. He believes that everyone who appears in front of him regardless of who or what they are receive a fair hearing - "their day in court." He is confident in the knowledge that those who leave his courtroom whether they prevailed or not were afforded an intelligent, unbiased, and fair determination of the issues before the court.

History has long established that the fair administration of justice is essential to the health and well-being of any society. As a fellow Judge I gladly and highly recommend Judge Simmons for the District Court, secure in the knowledge that he will discharge his duties fairly and impartially and will uphold and protect the Constitution in the highest traditions of the Judiciary.

Sincerely,



CARLOS O. ARMOUR  
Judge of the Superior Court