



The Superior Court

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CHAMBERS OF

HUEY P. COTTON

JUDGE

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January 4, 2022

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

Sent via email to Ravi Doshi, Counsel
Office of Senator Alex Padilla
Ravi_Doshi@judiciary-dem.senate.gov

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

RE: Hon. Trina Thompson: Nominee for the United States District Court Northern District
of California

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

It is with great enthusiasm that I recommend Judge Trina Thompson to serve as a federal judge on the District Court for the Northern District of California.

Judge Thompson has served with distinction on California's Superior Court bench since 2001. She has been the embodiment of the greatest ideals of our justice system by presiding over all manner of dispute in an impartial, independent, fair and timely manner, ensuring that due process is guaranteed in accordance with federal and state law. In Alameda County where she presides over a trial court, Judge Thompson is routinely called upon to handle high-profile and complex cases.

I first met Judge Thompson in 2017 at the California Judges Association (CJA) convention where she presented one of the feature panels on emerging issues in the law. CJA is one of the largest judicial associations in the United States and Judge Thompson is recognized as one of its finest teachers/educators. From the day I first met her until now, Judge Thompson's professional demeanor, executive style, broad legal vision, commitment to well-reasoned analysis of legal issues and personal belief in being a servant-leader has placed her in a class of her own. She is the kind of judge (and person) we are all glad to know and identify as a friend.

In 2020, I encouraged her to apply to become a federal District Court judge. Judge Thompson offers a seasoned (mature) perspective (thoughtful insight) on life and the law that will enrich the wisdom of our federal courts. She models the "all-in" workaholic judge, always working with boundless energy. She has mastered the art of caseload reduction, efficient case management, quality in-court demeanor and empathetic director for staff. At the same time, she lives a balanced life. In other words, Judge Thompson has proven that she will be ready for the responsibilities of a federal judge on day one.

Society loses if judges like Judge Thompson limit their offering to the courtroom. Even a cursory review of her uplifting speeches, lectures and other community outreach efforts suggests that Judge Thompson will enhance the image of the federal court as being accessible to the diverse community that is Northern California.

As a lawyer, I was a partner in a large international law firm, and practiced civil litigation, having tried cases in federal and state courts in Connecticut, Louisiana, Illinois, New York, Texas and California. I marvel at Judge Thompson's ability to engage in discussions with me, and others of similar background to me, comparing and contrasting civil and criminal law related issues. After more than a quarter of a century of civil litigation, I can say with confidence that I would not hesitate to present my clients' civil matters before Judge Thompson. Her keen ability to identify relevant issues and provide well-reasoned and fair assessment of the issues indicates to me that she will have a seamless transition to the federal bench. This is the most we can ask of a new federal trial judge.

Across the California state judiciary, in organizations such as CJA, Judge Thompson enjoys the admiration and respect of her peers. She is a diligent worker, actively shares her experiences and expertise in decision-making processes, and always has a ready smile, encouragement, collaboration and support for her colleagues. She is unflappably calm in all situations, and by unconscious habit considers issues on their individual merits within the broader context of settled federal and state constitutional law. She has excellent judgment, displays the highest levels of integrity, and her readiness for this federal District Court challenge.

Judge Thompson is exceptional. Her treatment of others, compassion, integrity, professional demeanor and breadth of experience handling complex cases make her stand out among other judges and provide a role-model for public servants. It is without reservation that I recommend her favorable consideration to serve in the federal judiciary. Should there be any questions or further assistance I can provide on her behalf, please contact me at my email address – hcotton@lacourt.org, or my direct telephone number – 818-901-4631.

Respectfully submitted,



Huey P. Cotton

Copy: Hon. Trina Thompson