

Hon. IRMA E. GONZALEZ (Ret.)  
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December 6, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin, Chairman  
The Honorable Charles Grassley, Ranking Member  
United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C., 205

Re: Letter of Support for the Confirmation of Magistrate Judge Andrew Schopler

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

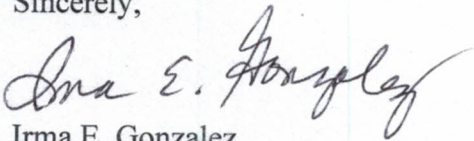
I write in strong support of Magistrate Judge Andrew Schopler's nomination to serve as a United States District Judge for the Southern District of California. I am a retired District Judge, serving in the Southern District of California from 1992-2013. I was the Chief Judge from 2005-2012. I first became acquainted with Judge Schopler when he appeared before me on several occasions as an Assistant United States Attorney, including a significant trial that is listed in the Senate questionnaire. He was always well prepared, focused in his arguments and respected by his opponents. I therefore can attest to his excellent advocacy skills in some very complex cases, his intellect and the respect he showed for the court and staff.

Judge Schopler also practiced criminal law as a defense attorney in private practice and at the Public Defenders Office in North Carolina. This experience along with his prosecution experience has served him well as a Magistrate Judge. He is firm but fair and is respected by attorneys on both sides of the aisle. Attorneys have commented to me about Judge Schopler's calm demeanor and measured approach to contentious legal issues.

In addition to Judge Schopler's extensive legal experience, he has served his country as a JAG officer in the United States Army, which included deployment to Afghanistan where he earned a Bronze Star. His military service is a further example of Judge Schopler's exemplary dedication to public service.

In summary, I have the highest respect for Judge Schopler. Without hesitation I strongly recommend him for confirmation to serve as a United States District Judge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Irma E. Gonzalez". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Irma E. Gonzalez  
United States District Judge (Ret.)