



SUPERIOR COURT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

CHAMBERS OF
JO-LYNNE Q. LEE
JUDGE

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
1221 OAK STREET
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612
(510) 267-6938
FAX (510) 891-6276

February 10, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin, Chairman
The Honorable Charles Grassley, Ranking Member
United States Senate Committee of the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Appointment of Judge Trina Thompson to the United States District Court

Dear Senator Durbin, Senator Grassley and Committee Members:

I respectfully request that you consider this letter in support of the appointment of Judge Trina Thompson, a nominee for the United States District Court, Northern District of California. Judge Thompson has been a colleague at the Alameda County Superior Court for almost two decades and in that time she has also become a good friend. In other words, I know her both professionally and socially and, in both worlds, she is consistent: not just smart, but wise; not just one who listens, but one who finds a solution; not just a judge who decides cases, but one who delivers justice.

Judge Thompson's significant accomplishments are readily seen in her curriculum vitae – including 21 years as a trial judge on the Alameda County Superior Court bench; 6-plus years as an Adjunct Professor at U.C. Berkeley; a Presidential Appointment to the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; the 2019 Jurist of Distinction awarded by the Women Lawyers of Alameda County; and the winner of the 2019 Raymond Pace Alexander Award given by the National Bar Association. Much of her experience and practice has been in the areas of juvenile justice and criminal law but there is no doubt in my mind that she can master the intricacies of the varied and complex civil and commercial law matters that she will encounter at the District Court.

Judge Thompson comes from humble roots that she has not forgotten and as a result she has dedicated many hours and time to her community, including membership in numerous professional boards and non-profit organizations. Currently she serves as Vice President of the Association of African American California Judicial Officers, reflecting state-wide recognition of her leadership among colleagues on the bench. More locally, Judge Thompson is not only a teacher but a mentor, and likely inspiration, for many young men and women in the East Bay community.

The Honorable Richard Durbin, Chairman
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Page 2 of 2

Despite a heavy schedule of work and community activities, Judge Thompson is remarkably active off the bench. For many years she has been a passionate and profuse photographer and more recently she has become a remarkable portrait painter. Her medium is watercolor, which I assure you – as a fellow dabbler in watercolors - is no mean feat.

In sum, if you are looking to appoint an honest, intelligent, hard-working and conscientious jurist then you need not look any further. I enthusiastically recommend her for confirmation and thank you for your consideration of this letter of support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jo-Lynne Q. Lee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jo-Lynne Q. Lee
Judge, Alameda County Superior Court.