



**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE**

CHAMBERS OF
JOHN M. MONTEROSSO
PRESIDING JUDGE

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January 19, 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: Letter of Support for the Honorable Sunshine S. Sykes, Nominee for the
U.S. District Court for the Central District of California

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

It is my honor to offer my enthusiastic support for Judge Sunshine Sykes for confirmation to the United States District Court for the Central District of California. Judge Sykes has served the Riverside Superior Court for eight years with distinction, and is exceptionally well qualified to serve on the federal bench. She is universally respected for her intellect, legal knowledge, work ethic, and commitment to service. While her appointment will be a huge loss to our court, she will be an invaluable asset to the federal bench for years to come.

Judge Sykes was appointed to the state court bench after serving over eight years as a Deputy County Counsel. As a Deputy County Counsel, she worked in a variety of areas, including representing and advising the Registrar of Voters in election issues, and representing the Department of Public Social Services on matters concerning abused and neglected children. Upon her appointment, Judge Sykes presided over an unlimited civil calendar, and beginning in 2019 she has been the sole judge assigned to handle Complex Civil matters. Despite handing a caseload that far exceeds that of our neighbor courts due

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to the severe shortage of judges facing Riverside County, Judge Sykes has always managed to resolve cases and issue opinions that are both timely and well-reasoned.

Judge Sykes has also served as a member of the Superior Court Appellate Panel, the last 2 years as Presiding Judge. It was my privilege to serve for 3 years with Judge Sykes on that panel. Judge Sykes worked collaboratively with the other judges, and always provided an enlightened perspective. She was deliberate in her analysis of every case, no matter how trivial. Most importantly, I found that she always considered the human element of each case while still being faithful to the law.

Judge Sykes has also been a leader off the bench. As the first and only Native American to serve on our bench, Judge Sykes is a leader and role model among the Native tribes in Riverside County and California. She currently serves as a member of the California Judicial Council Tribal Court-State Court Forum, and is Co-Chair of the Riverside County Tribal Alliance. Judge Sykes also serves on Governor Newsom's Judicial Selection Advisement Committee (JSAC), a regional committee tasked with vetting judicial nominees to the state court. In a similar vein, Judge Sykes serves on the Riverside Superior Court's Personnel Committee which vets and recommends for hire Subordinate Judicial Officers. Judge Sykes also previously served on the Riverside Superior Court's Executive Committee. Her appointment to these committees demonstrates the trust that others have placed in her judgement in selecting the next generation of judges and judicial officers, and making decisions impacting the community at large.

I have observed first-hand that Judge Sykes is committed to ensuring that all persons who come before her are treated fairly and with the dignity that all persons deserve. She is dedicated to following the law while never forgetting that each case involves human beings with real human consequences. She is a hard-working and an exceptionally talented and intelligent jurist who will be an outstanding federal judge. I cannot offer any higher praise than I do for Judge Sykes. I urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to recommend her confirmation for appointment to the United States District Court.

Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any additional information or assistance. Thank you for all your work on behalf of the American people in confirming the best and brightest for the federal bench.

Very truly yours,



JOHN M. MONTEROSSO
Presiding Judge