

May 3, 2022

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support for Federal Judicial Nominee Salvador Mendoza

Dear Senators Durbin and Grassley:

It is my great honor to support the nomination of Salvador Mendoza for the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. I have known Judge Mendoza since he was an undergraduate student at the University of Washington and followed his professional career over the years, and I enthusiastically support his nomination for this federal judicial position.

I currently serve as the Director for Inclusion Initiatives and Alumni Relations at the University of Washington School of Law, and I also have over 20 years of litigation experience which includes over seven years as a court commissioner for the King County Superior Court. I also served alongside Salvador Mendoza as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Washington. Even as a young attorney, he impressed me with his professionalism, integrity, and constant desire to learn. Throughout his educational and professional career, he has demonstrated a profound commitment to community, the highest ethics, and a tremendous respect for the rule of law.

I know that you will receive multiple letters of support highlighting his outstanding professional qualifications, notable judicial experience, and strong commitment to justice. I would enthusiastically offer my endorsement to any positive professional reference in support of his nomination. I would also add my own personal note about his commitment to the communities he serves. I feel that it is important for judges to remain involved in the community so they may have a better understanding of the critical issues that impact the people they serve. At a time when public confidence in the judicial system is often challenged, it is so important to have community leaders that are worthy of the public's trust. In my opinion, Salvador Mendoza is worthy of that trust.

I have witnessed his sincere communications with students at the Youth and Justice Forums held in Eastern Washington. His strong work ethic and commitment to fairness are influenced and strengthened through the support of his family. He will often share his unique background and how it shaped his professional career, and the students are inspired when they hear his story. While serving as a mentor and positive role model for young people, seeking opportunities to educate others about the law, and truly listening when challenges faced in the judicial system are discussed, Salvador Mendoza has established himself as a leader in the community who is worthy of the public's trust.

I believe that he will continue to live up to this high standard. I believe that he will continue to be an outstanding jurist. I believe that he is extremely well qualified to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and I hope you will accept and consider this letter of recommendation for Salvador Mendoza.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Castilleja". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lisa" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Castilleja".

Elizabeth (Lisa) Castilleja
Attorney at Law