



# Superior Court of California

## County of San Francisco

CHRISTINE VAN AKEN  
JUDGE

November 28, 2022

The Honorable Dick J. Durbin  
Chairman  
United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Ranking Member  
United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Letter of Support for the Honorable Rita F. Lin,  
Nominee for the United States District Court  
for the Northern District of California

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We are judges of the San Francisco Superior Court and colleagues of Judge Rita F. Lin. We write in wholehearted support of her nomination to serve as a federal judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California.

Judge Lin's skills, temperament, and character will enable her to become a model district judge. With regard to her skills, she has a remarkable facility for legal analysis and reasoning and has become someone that many of us turn to for discussions of the challenging or novel legal questions that arise in our courtrooms every day. Her mind is both quick and pragmatic; she always has an eye for the practical impacts of her decisionmaking, but she is also well versed in the statutes and precedents that govern our work. Where she does not know an area of law, she does not hesitate to research issues personally, and she does the work to be certain of her answers before issuing her rulings. She is known to be hardworking, diligent, and rigorous in her thinking.

With regard to Judge Lin's temperament and character, we know her to be fair-minded and free from bias. Judges are expected to rule based on the facts and law before them without fear or favor to any party. Judge Lin takes this obligation to heart and is

committed to fairness to the parties who appear before her; she listens to all parties' positions and considers her rulings carefully before issuing them. She is also known to be measured and to treat everyone in her courtroom with courtesy and dignity.

Judge Lin has also become a leader on our court in developing new solutions to the everyday challenges of administering justice. There are many examples of her leadership: she drafted materials to assist judges in performing warrant duty; she initiated a criminal trial judges' roundtable series for judges to share knowledge about trial management; she took the lead in working with San Francisco's criminal justice partners to develop better information about our electronic monitoring practices to help judges make sound release decisions. These examples—and they are but a few examples—illustrate that Judge Lin is a hardworking colleague who has committed herself to her duties, and we have no doubt that she will bring similar leadership, initiative, and diligence to her duties as a district judge.

In short, we believe that Judge Lin will be an exemplary district judge and we strongly commend her to you. Thank you for considering our views on her nomination.

Sincerely,

Hon. Christine Van Aken  
Judge, Superior Court of California  
County of San Francisco

Hon. Linda Colfax  
Judge, Superior Court of California  
County of San Francisco

Hon. Michael Begert  
Judge, Superior Court of California  
County of San Francisco

Hon. Brendan Conroy  
Judge, Superior Court of California  
County of San Francisco

Hon. Teresa M. Caffese  
Judge, Superior Court of California  
County of San Francisco

Hon. Charles Crompton  
Judge, Superior Court of California  
County of San Francisco

Hon. Roger C. Chan  
Judge, Superior Court of California  
County of San Francisco

Hon. Richard C. Darwin  
Judge, Superior Court of California  
County of San Francisco

Hon. Andrew Y. S. Cheng  
Judge, Superior Court of California  
County of San Francisco

Hon. Harry M. Dorfman  
Judge, Superior Court of California  
County of San Francisco

Hon. A. Marisa Chun  
Judge, Superior Court of California  
County of San Francisco

Hon. Brian L. Ferrall  
Judge, Superior Court of California  
County of San Francisco

Hon. Loretta M. Giorgi  
Judge, Superior Court of California  
County of San Francisco

Hon. Carolyn Gold  
Judge, Superior Court of California  
County of San Francisco

Hon. Alexandra Robert Gordon  
Judge, Superior Court of California  
County of San Francisco

Hon. Christopher C. Hite  
Judge, Superior Court of California  
County of San Francisco

Hon. Curtis E. A. Karnow  
Judge, Superior Court of California  
County of San Francisco

Hon. Kathleen Kelly  
Judge, Superior Court of California  
County of San Francisco

Hon. Michael McNaughton  
Judge, Superior Court of California  
County of San Francisco

Hon. Ross C. Moody  
Judge, Superior Court of California  
County of San Francisco

Hon. Vedica Puri  
Judge, Superior Court of California  
County of San Francisco