



May 2, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

As someone who has worked side by side with Judge Salvador Mendoza for two decades, I write to strongly support the confirmation of Judge Mendoza to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Throughout his distinguished career in public service, private practice, and the judiciary, Judge Mendoza has consistently demonstrated a commitment to equal justice under the law. Now, with nearly a decade of experience as a state and federal judge, and having sat by designation on the Ninth Circuit, Judge Mendoza is extremely qualified to join the Circuit Court.

During the course of his career, Judge Mendoza has worked in a variety of demanding legal environments: working as a deputy prosecutor in Franklin County, Washington; serving as an Assistant Attorney General in the Washington State Attorney General's Office, starting a solo law practice providing indigent defense, then growing that law practice into one of the most respected law firms in Central Washington State; becoming a Washington State Superior Court Judge, and then finally being appointed by President Obama to be a United States District Court Judge. In each and every role, Judge Mendoza has excelled and demonstrated an abiding commitment to the rule of law and the safeguarding of our constitutional rights.

I worked with Judge Mendoza when we were both young deputy prosecutors. In his work as a prosecutor, I saw his commitment to hold people accountable while not losing sight of the importance of treating the accused with respect. Judge Mendoza and I were adversaries when he went into private practice representing the accused. While we were both zealous advocates for our clients, Judge Mendoza was always professional and never personal, even during the most difficult cases. When I joined Judge Mendoza in private practice, I gained a law partner who both represented clients and conducted business with the highest degree of care and integrity. As a judge, Judge Mendoza has been able to combine all of the above experience and traits into a reputation as a judge who is smart, fair,



thoughtful, and without prejudice. Judge Mendoza has one agenda, he follows the law regardless of where it takes him.

Finally, and not insignificantly, if confirmed, Judge Mendoza would be the first Hispanic Ninth Circuit Court Judge appointed from the State of Washington. Judge Mendoza's personal story is one of America. The son of hard-working immigrants, Judge Mendoza was never handed anything. Each accomplishment was earned built on the work ethic and intellect he inherited from his parents. Judge Mendoza's story is certainly a shining example of America at her best. The courts and their jurists should be reflective of both the diversity and excellence of our nation. Judge Mendoza is a testament to both.

Given his exemplary qualifications, I would urge the Senate to swiftly confirm Judge Mendoza to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Sincerely,

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