



PRESIDENT
RAKIM BROOKS

CHAIR
PAULETTE MEYER

December 12, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairman Durbin,

On behalf of the Alliance for Justice (AFJ), a national association representing more than 150 public interest and civil rights organizations, I write to enthusiastically support the confirmation of P. Casey Pitts to the United States District Court for the Northern District of California.

Mr. Pitts has deep roots in Northern California. After earning both a B.A. and J.D. from Yale, Mr. Pitts clerked for the Honorable Stephen Reinhardt on the Ninth Circuit. In 2009, he joined the San Francisco-based law firm, Altshuler Berzon LLP, where he was promoted to partner in 2017. With years of complex and high-profile litigation experience advocating for working people, Mr. Pitts will bring robust knowledge, skill and an important perspective on labor rights to the bench.

Mr. Pitt's extensive experience in complex federal and state litigation, representing international and local labor unions, consumers, government entities, and public interest organizations, has thoroughly prepared him for the issues he will face on the District Court. Having litigated in federal and state court across the country, including in seventeen federal district courts, seven federal Circuit Courts and in front of the U.S. Supreme Court, Mr. Pitts understands complex litigation at the federal level. Illustrative of his work, in 2021, Mr. Pitts represented a union of janitorial services workers in [*SEIU Local 87 v. NLRB* \(9th Cir. 2021\)](#), where he successfully convinced a panel of Ninth Circuit judges that the National Labor Relations Board erred in dismissing the workers' complaint for being fired after protesting unlawful working conditions, including pervasive sexual harassment. Further, in [*Broussard v. First Tower Loan Corp* \(E.D. La. 2015\)](#), Mr. Pitts successfully obtained an arbitration decision finding that an employer's termination of a transgender client violated Title VII's prohibition on sex discrimination.

Mr. Pitts has demonstrated a commitment to equal justice, advocating for people from marginalized communities his entire legal career. His clients have included, among others, Indonesian factory workers denied severance payments guaranteed to them under Indonesian law; Latino voters in Escondido, California who were unable to participate in city politics on the same footing as non-Latino voters; a nonprofit community services organization dedicated to providing representation to indigent immigration detainees; low-

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wage fast food workers denied minimum wages, overtime pay, and legally-mandated meal and rest breaks; and unions representing bus drivers, homecare workers, public defenders, and public school teachers.

Outside of the courtroom, Mr. Pitts' commitment to serving the public interest is evident through both his legal and community work. Mr. Pitts has engaged in various pro-bono projects throughout his career. He currently serves as an Appellate Representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference and as a member of the amicus and judiciary committees of BALIF, the San Francisco Bay Area's LGBTQ+ bar association. He also volunteers with the Workers' Rights Clinic of Legal Aid at Work.

Finally, if confirmed, Mr. Pitts would be the only currently serving Article III judge in the Northern District of California to openly identify as LGBTQ+, bringing critical demographic diversity to an appellate bench that does not reflect the diversity of our nation. Additionally, as a labor law attorney, Mr. Pitts would also bring important professional diversity that the federal bench is severely lacking. Given his exemplary qualifications, the Senate should expeditiously confirm P. Casey Pitts to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

Sincerely,

Rakim H.D. Brooks

Rakim Brooks
President, Alliance for Justice