



Police Department

February 23, 2011

Office of U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer
1700 Montgomery Street, Suite 240
San Francisco, CA 94111
Fax (202) 224-0454

Dear Senator Boxer:

I write to you in support of the Honorable Judge Jon Tigar's application for appointment to the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. Judge Tigar is well-regarded by the members of our department and his dedication to the communities of Berkeley demonstrates he is a judge committed to public safety, livability and fairness.

As you know, police officers must obtain judicial approval for search or arrest warrants. In addition, judges also consider applications to deny bail for dangerous defendants. In Alameda County the Superior Court has a rotating "duty judge" who respond in the event of after-hours police officer requests at night and on the weekends. Typically, each judge serves approximately one-and-a-half weeks in this capacity.

As the duty judge, Judge Tigar provided our officers with his personal cell phone number so that he could be reached anytime they were not able to reach the regularly assigned duty judge. He also made it clear that in the event of serious crimes officers are free to call upon him at any time whether or not a duty judge was also available.

The assistance and responsiveness that Judge Tigar provides saves valuable time and has led to the timely arrest of suspect(s) and the recovery of evidence. His immediate responses to our requests for a warrant signature have assisted in moving investigations forward. In homicide investigations, where the initial hours in the investigation are critical, this assistance has been invaluable.

Judge Tigar has reviewed numerous Berkeley Police Department applications in cases involving homicide, narcotics, home invasion robberies, and other serious violent crimes. He meets our officers in his home, at our department headquarters, or wherever he happens to be when he receives a phone call. He has even reviewed faxed warrants while on vacation. Judge Jon Tigar has effectively become a full-time back-up duty judge for the citizens of Berkeley.

I believe that Judge Jon Tigar is well-qualified for the federal bench and I hope you will give his application serious consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. Meehan".

Michael K. Meehan
Chief of Police