



October 3, 2011

Honorable Patrick Leahy, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Charles Grassley, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Michael W. Fitzgerald/United States District Judge for the Central District of California

Dear Senator Leahy and Senator Grassley:

I have known Michael W. Fitzgerald for over twenty years. During that time, I have served as an Assistant United States Attorney, a Municipal and Superior Court Judge, and the United States Attorney for the Central District of California (2002-2006). Since 2006, I have been in private practice in Los Angeles, California. I have professionally interacted with Mike in throughout the years. I confidently support his nomination to be a United States District Judge in the Central District of California.

I first met Mike when we served together as Assistant United States Attorneys. Mike was in the Narcotics Division. He was well liked in the office and always eager to try a case or write an appellate brief. His reputation was one of being a clear and logical thinker. I know that he particularly enjoyed working as a federal prosecutor and enjoyed advocating for the rights of victims. He also enjoyed investigating and trying serious and complex drug cases. At the time he was in the office, the “best and the brightest” prosecutors were in the Narcotics section. After I became a Municipal and Superior Court judge, Mike appeared before me in criminal and civil cases. When I became United States Attorney, I learned that Mike and his law partner Robert Corbin enjoyed a strong reputation throughout my office for honesty and ability. Both Mike and his firm were known as “straight shooters.”

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Mike has the intelligence, integrity, work ethic, and disposition to be an excellent district judge. He will treat counsel and the parties with dignity; at the same time, he will manage his courtroom with the efficiency and decisiveness that the workloads in this district demand. His nomination was enthusiastically received by prosecutors, defense attorneys, and the legal community generally. The litigation partners here and at similar firms hold Mike in high regard and I wouldn't hesitate to refer any criminal or civil case to his law firm.

I recommend Mike without reservation for confirmation as a United States District Judge. Please let me know if I can assist you and the Judiciary Committee in any way.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Debra Wong Yang". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Debra" and last name "Yang" being more prominent than the middle name "Wong".

Debra Wong Yang

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer

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