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The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Magistrate Judge Benjamin Cheeks to the United States District Court for the Southern District of California

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

I respectfully submit this letter in support of the nomination of Magistrate Judge Benjamin Cheeks to the United States District Court for the Southern District of California. I have known Magistrate Judge Cheeks since 2010. Over the last fourteen years, I have been blessed to interact with him personally and professionally. He is one of the finest persons I have ever met.

Magistrate Judge Cheeks has the experience and temperament to be an outstanding District Court Judge. He earned his B.A. from the University of Miami in 2000 and his J.D. from American University Washington College of Law in 2003. Following law school, he began his career as an Assistant District Attorney with the New York County District Attorney's Office in Manhattan. In 2010, he joined the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of California as an Assistant United States Attorney. A few years later, he started his own practice at the Law Offices of Benjamin J. Cheeks, A.P.C. He performed criminal and civil work. Currently, he serves as a Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court for the Southern District of California.

While at the United States Attorney's Office, I had the pleasure of meeting and working with Magistrate Judge Cheeks. We tried a case involving the importation of a controlled substance resulting in guilty verdicts. He was a superb colleague and trial attorney. I have seen him handle cases involving complex issues, multiple defendants and counsel, and voluminous discovery. As an Assistant United States Attorney, I have personally resolved over 1,300 felony and thousands of petty offense cases, tried over 50 criminal trials, and handled over 50 appellate matters. After twenty-seven years of legal practice, I would rate Magistrate Judge Cheeks among the best lawyers that I have ever seen.

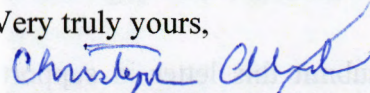
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Magistrate Judge Cheeks has earned the respect of all parties: Judges, Defense Counsel, Prosecutors, and Community Members. Earlier this year, Magistrate Judge Cheeks was selected by a group of local attorneys and the District Court Judges to assume the position of Magistrate Judge. He has worked in the community to further the aims of equal justice under the law through organizations like the Federal Bar Association.

Most importantly, he is a devoted husband and father. His wife and children could not be prouder of him. Similarly, I am honored to call him my friend. I have no doubt that he will be an asset to the community as a District Court Judge. Therefore, I strongly support his nomination. Please let me know if there is anything else that I can provide. Thank you for considering this letter.

Very truly yours,



CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER