MITCHELL A. KAMIN

111 N. Las Palmas Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90004 mitchkamin@gmail.com

DAVID A. LASH

1201 Delresto Dr. Los Angeles, CA dlash@omm.com

SANDOR E. SAMUELS

17527 Embassy Drive Encino, CA sandor.samuels@csun.edu

The Honorable Dick Durbin Chairman Committee on the Judiciary United States Senate Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley Ranking Member Committee on the Judiciary United States Senate Washington, DC 20510

Re:

Hon. Michelle Williams Court: Nominee for the United States District Court, Central District of California

Dear Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

We are proud to support President Biden's the nomination of Michelle Williams Court as a judge on the District Court for the Central District of California.

We write to you today in our personal capacities, as friends and colleagues of Judge Court for almost 25 years. We each served, successively, as the CEO of Bet Tzedek Legal Services, The House of Justice, one of the nation's leading non-profit providers of legal services to the elderly, indigent and disabled of Los Angeles. As a result, we each had the privilege of working with Judge Court during her tenure at the organization. Mr. Lash originally hired her into the organization to serve as the Deputy Director of Litigation, Mr. Kamin promoted her to be the Director of Litigation and General Counsel, and Mr. Samuels continued to work with Judge Court until her appointment by the Governor to the Los Angeles Superior Court.

Each of us continues to be active members of the Bar, practicing in various capacities in the Los Angeles community. Collectively we have known and worked with Judge Court under a great many circumstances. We can unequivocally say that, based on our intimate knowledge of her abilities, performance and temperament, she truly is an outstanding candidate for the federal bench. We each sought her counsel on a daily basis, observed her interactions with community leaders, board members and professional staff, and relied upon her excellent legal acumen. She is one of the finest lawyers with whom we ever have had the pleasure to collaborate, and her leadership skills are unparalleled.

One of the joys of working so closely with Judge Court was to watch and learn from the respect with which she treated everyone. At Bet Tzedek, with its large staff of attorneys and other professionals, operating in a union environment, personnel issues arose almost daily. Judge Court dealt with sensitive matters on a regular basis, resolving delicate and complicated issues with respect for all involved parties. The staff was grateful for her fair handling of all such matters, her temperament and patience resulting always in quiet, satisfying resolutions.

In addition, Judge Court was one of the organization's primary liaisons with the Bet Tzedek board of directors, a sophisticated group of civic, business and legal community leaders. She earned their trust quickly and unequivocally. Her legal presentations at Board meetings were carefully prepared and delivered; and she responded to questions always with thoughtful and respectful answers. The only regret the board members may have had about her was that she joined the bench before they could convince her to serve as the organization's CEO!

All of us were continually impressed by her fairness, analytical ability and her even-handed temperament. We never saw her raise her voice, be it with colleagues or opposing counsel. She continually has exhibited the same patience and respect during her years on the bench. No matter the background, situation, or viewpoints of anyone who appears in her courtroom. Judge Court treats everyone with the same respect, kindness and attention. We never saw her show bias or contempt for anyone, regardless of their station, and she has always been unfailing in her commitment to access to justice for those most in need

Having visible community roles at Bet Tzedek, and on the bench, means adhering to the missions of those closely-watched entities. Nothing in either venue is more important than fairness, tolerance, patience and intellect. Judge Court's ethos is exemplary of all these strengths.

It is with great pride that we support the nomination of the Honorable Michelle Williams Court to the federal bench. We cannot imagine a better nominee and believe without hesitation that she will be an invaluable asset to the bench and the administration of justice.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to share our thoughts,

Mitchell A. Kamin

David A. Lash

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