



Superior Court of California County of Fresno

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November 28, 2023

The Honorable Richard Durbin, Chairman
The Honorable Lindsey Graham, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

We write to convey our strong support for the nomination of Kirk E. Sherriff to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California. We are a bipartisan group of California Superior Court Judges who are former Assistant United States Attorneys and a former Chief of the Federal Defender's Office in Fresno with direct experience with Mr. Sherriff. We have either worked with Mr. Sherriff while in the United States Attorney's Office or opposed Mr. Sherriff while in the Federal Defender's Office and are familiar with his qualifications, temperament and experience for the position.

Mr. Sherriff served in both the civil and criminal divisions of the U.S. Attorney's Office before being promoted to Chief of the White Collar Crime Unit in 2013 and Chief of the Fresno office in 2015. During his 21 years with the U.S. Department of Justice, Mr. Sherriff has demonstrated the highest degree of integrity, good judgment and fairness. He has a broad breadth of experience, in both civil and criminal law, and has handled some of the most complex cases in both those divisions.

What has most impressed us about Mr. Sherriff is his tireless work ethic, remarkable intellect, and dedication to the rule of law and fairness in reaching a just result. At a time when our democracy and the independence of the judiciary are threatened, it is critical to have judicial officers who exhibit the highest degree of professionalism, demonstrate no biases, and treat all parties and attorneys fairly. Mr. Sherriff has these attributes and has earned the respect of his colleagues and the legal community.

The Honorable Richard Durbin
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November 28, 2023
Page 2

It is with great enthusiasm that we give Mr. Sherriff our highest recommendation for confirmation to the position of United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California.

Respectfully,

/s/ Jonathan B. Conklin

Jonathan B. Conklin
Fresno County Superior Court Judge
Former Deputy Chief, U.S. Attorney's
Office, Fresno

/s/ Kristi Culver Kapetan

Kristi Culver Kapetan
Fresno County Superior Court Judge
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney, Fresno

/s/ Kimberly A. Gaab

Kimberly A. Gaab
Fresno County Superior Court Judge
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney, Fresno

/s/ Virna L. Santos

Virna L. Santos
Fresno County Superior Court Judge
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney, Fresno

/s/ Francine Zepeda

Francine Zepeda
Fresno County Superior Court Judge
Former Chief, Federal Defender's Office,
Fresno

/s/ Mark E. Cullers

Mark E. Cullers
Fresno County Superior Court Judge
Former Chief, U.S. Attorney's Office,
Fresno

/s/ Brian W. Enos

Brian W. Enos
Madera County Superior Court Judge
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney, Fresno

/s/ Heather Mardel Jones

Heather Mardel Jones
Fresno County Superior Court Judge
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney, Fresno

/s/ Geoffrey D. Wilson

Geoffrey D. Wilson
Fresno County Superior Court Judge
Former Deputy Chief, U.S. Attorney's
Office, Los Angeles, and former
Assistant U.S. Attorney, Fresno