



*Homeland Security Investigations
Office of the Special Agent in Charge*

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
880 Front St, Suite 3200
San Diego, CA 92101

[FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY]

November 18, 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman
The Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
The Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate

FROM: Keith Banks
Supervisory Special Agent
Homeland Security Investigations

SUBJECT: Nomination of Benjamin Cheeks to the United States District Court for
the Southern District of California

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham,

I am writing to offer my strong support for Benjamin Cheeks in his nomination to serve as a United States District Court Judge for the Southern District of California. I first met Mr. Cheeks in 2013 while assigned in San Diego. I found Mr. Cheeks to be a dedicated Assistant United States Attorney committed to justice, fairness, and the rule of law. As an Assistant United States Attorney, Mr. Cheeks prosecuted numerous cases in the Southern District of California and was instrumental in the conviction of defendants who conspired to import and distribute deadly controlled substances into the United States. Mr. Cheeks ensured these defendants were sentenced fairly within the federal sentencing guidelines.

Mr. Cheeks' experience as an Assistant District Attorney in Manhattan, Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of California, and as a United States Magistrate Judge has provided him with all the skills necessary to interpret and adjudicate the law fairly. His decisions will be impartial and based on the law and the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

In addition to his legal expertise, Mr. Cheeks embodies the qualities we expect from members of the federal judiciary. Mr. Cheeks is well known and respected in the Southern District of



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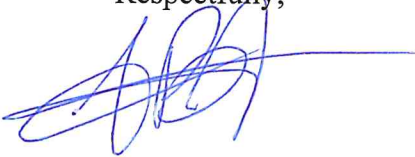
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California for his humility, integrity and professionalism. Considering his experience, skills, ethical grounding and personal attributes, I strongly believe Mr. Cheeks will serve with distinction as United States District Judge.

As a friend and colleague, I am pleased to join many others who know Mr. Cheeks and support his nomination to serve as United States District Court Judge. I urge you to give Mr. Cheeks your full and favorable consideration.

Respectfully,



Keith Banks
Supervisory Special Agent