



CHAMBERS OF
MARY D. DOLAS
Judge

Superior Court of California County of Fresno

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May 11, 2023

The Honorable Richard Durbin, Chairman
The Honorable Charles Grassley, Ranking
Member United States Senate Committee of the
Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Appointment of Judge Ana de Alba to the United States Court of Appeals
for the Ninth Circuit

Dear Senator Durbin, Senator Grassley and Committee Members:

I enthusiastically submit this letter of support for the confirmation of Judge Ana de Alba, nominee for the United States District Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. I know her to be exceptionally well-qualified, possessing qualities and attributes of extraordinary superiority that will enable her to perform with distinction the duties of a U.S. Court of Appeals Judge.

Judge de Alba was a colleague at the Fresno County Superior Court for four years and in that time, she also became a good friend. In other words, I know her both professionally and socially and, in both worlds, she is consistent: not just smart, but wise; not just one who listens, but one who finds a solution; not just a judge who decides cases, but one who delivers justice.

I had the honor of supervising her during her assignment in Fresno County Juvenile Court and was astonished with not only how quickly she learned Juvenile Law but more importantly the skills, patience and empathy she demonstrated in her interactions with the at-risk youth and families appearing in her court. Judge de Alba exercises patience, dignity, impartiality, accountability, fairness, and honesty in decision making. She recognizes the need to be prepared, listen carefully to all sides and write and speak with clarity. Judge de Alba practices these skills because she is mindful, maintains composure and is not prone to anger, is collegial and values and maintains civility even in difficult circumstances and pressure.

Judge de Alba's significant accomplishments are readily seen in her curriculum vitae — including currently serving as U.S. District Court Judge, her years as a judge on the Fresno County Superior Court bench; an instructor at San Joaquin College of Law, and a highly distinguished career as a civil attorney.

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She possesses intelligence and intellectual curiosity as well as being open to learning new areas of the law as evidenced by her judicial career at the U.S. District Court, the Fresno County Superior Court, where she learned criminal and juvenile law and her experience as a civil litigator, handling a broad range of cases. She clearly has an intellectual prowess that is well suited for the federal bench.

Unknown to most people is that Judge de Alba comes from humble roots that she has not forgotten. As a result, she has dedicated many hours and time to her community, including membership in numerous professional boards and non-profit organizations. Judge de Alba has also been, and continues to be, a mentor, and likely inspiration, for many young men and women in the Central Valley community.

Over time each judge will learn the relevant statutes, rules and cases as well as the rules of judicial ethics, but what sets Judge de Alba apart is her humility. She does not promote herself or her personal interests. She recognizes that she is a guardian of a justice system that is the gold standard for the world. Judge Ana de Alba will be an extraordinary and exemplary U.S. Court of Appeals Judge and without any hesitation I offer my support for her nomination. Thank you for your consideration of this letter of support.

Should you like further input or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,



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