



# FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION

## INLAND EMPIRE CHAPTER

December 31, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Chairman  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

The Inland Empire Chapter of the Federal Bar Association submits this letter to express its ardent support for Judge Kenly Kiya Kato's confirmation as a District Judge of the United States District Court for the Central District of California. Judge Kato has served as a United States Magistrate Judge in the Eastern Division of the Central District of California, as well as an active member of the Board of Directors of our local chapter, for approximately eight years. We offer our unwavering support for Judge Kato because she has earned it.

Judge Kato has consistently demonstrated her commitment to the leadership role she has undertaken in our chapter by attending nearly every board meeting where she has offered feedback and guidance that have been critical to our chapter's efforts to provide relevant legal education and networking opportunities for our members. Judge Kato has been instrumental in advancing our chapter's diversity, equity, and inclusivity initiatives by encouraging law students and young lawyers to attend

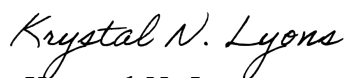
chapter events and to join our local chapter. She has also served on numerous legal education panels where everything that makes her unique — her ethnicity, her gender, her education, her kindness and compassion, her family history, her experiences as public defender and now, as a magistrate judge, among other characteristics — has manifested in enriching dialogues that always leave the participants wiser and encouraged to be thoughtful, civil, and prepared, but most importantly, to be humble servants to the public and to the legal community. She reminds us that we should be very intentional and proactive about using our legal talents responsibly.

Judge Kato's commitment to the legal community extends far beyond merely serving our local FBA chapter. She also provides life-changing opportunities to law students by hiring law students who would not typically be considered for federal clerkships. I am personally aware of several law students whose lives have been forever changed due to their interactions with Judge Kato. She serves as a consistent, long-term mentor for these students, not only encouraging them to "dream big" but helping them understand how to achieve their dreams. Under Judge Kato's mentorship, students who believe that their professional opportunities are limited by various demographic factors, including which law schools they attended, ultimately become more resilient, tenacious, and revitalized.

Judge Kato's well-earned reputation also extends to her nearly eight year tenure on the bench. She is highly regarded by federal practitioners in the local bar as an extraordinarily competent, even-tempered, and perceptive jurist. In fact, many civil practitioners — both plaintiff and defense counsel — stipulate to her presiding over all aspects of their cases as a magistrate judge under the Court's direct-assignment and consent programs. Judge Kato is humble, patient, and fair, and in our experiences as federal practitioners, we have observed that Judge Kato's primary guiding principle has been defending and implementing the rule of law and the precepts found in our Constitution. As a District Judge, not only would Judge Kato represent a just and equitable legal system, but she would also serve as a physical representation for several marginalized groups, particularly women of color and Asian Americans, who have not historically been adequately represented in our federal courts.

For these reasons, we wholeheartedly support Judge Kato's nomination, and we respectfully urge the Senate to confirm Judge Kato as a District Judge of the Central District of California.

Respectfully,



Krystal N. Lyons

Immediate Past President

Federal Bar Association, Inland Empire Chapter