



**Superior Court of California  
County of San Bernardino**

January 31, 2022

Senator Richard J. Durbin, Chairman  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Letter in Support of Honorable Kenly Kiya Kato for the United States  
District Court, Central District of California

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We are former Assistant United States Attorneys for the Central District of California, currently serving as Superior Court Judges for the County of San Bernardino, California. We write to you and Members of the Committee in support of President Joe Biden's nomination of United States Magistrate Judge Kenly Kiya Kato to serve as a District Judge for the United States District Court, Central District of California.

As former prosecutors, each of us have either prosecuted or supervised the prosecution of criminal defendants represented by Judge Kato when she was a criminal defense attorney. In each of these cases, we found her to possess excellent legal skills, sharp intellect, and a strong commitment to the highest ethical and professional standards. As an attorney, Judge Kato practiced exclusively in federal court for more than 18 years. She promoted compassion, dignity, and respect for all parties during that entire period. Judge Kato also displayed a remarkable ability to view cases from a prosecutor's perspective to more effectively negotiate potential resolutions, represent her clients in court, and advise her clients.

As prosecutors, we also saw Judge Kato transition from a criminal defense attorney to her current position as a U.S. Magistrate Judge. We either appeared before Judge Kato in criminal cases, supervised other prosecutors who appeared before Judge Kato, or interacted with her in our supervisory capacities. We found Judge Kato's decisions to be well-reasoned, thoughtful, and grounded in the law. On the bench, she consistently demonstrated an even temperament and a respectful demeanor to all attorneys and parties. Judge Kato recognized that both prosecutors

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and defense attorneys are essential to the adversarial process and fairly considered each party's position before issuing a ruling.

Each of us, as former federal prosecutors who now serve as trial court judges, understands how critical it is for district judges to be ethical, independent, and impartial. Judge Kato possesses these values in abundance. Her professional integrity is beyond reproach and we are confident that she would serve with distinction.

Judge Kato is eminently qualified to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. She is an open-minded, fair, and impartial jurist with a clear commitment to equal justice. She possesses the experience, intellect, judgment, and temperament required of a district judge. We have no doubt that Judge Kato would execute the responsibilities of a United States District Judge in a manner that would honor our federal court system. We support Judge Kenly Kiya Kato's nomination fully and without reservation.

Sincerely,

                                /s/ Corey G. Lee  
Corey G. Lee  
Judge, San Bernardino County Superior Court

                                /s/ Tony Raphael  
Tony Raphael  
Judge, San Bernardino County Superior Court

                                /s/ Jay H. Robinson  
Jay H. Robinson  
Judge, San Bernardino County Superior Court

                                /s/ Joseph B. Widman  
Joseph B. Widman  
Judge, San Bernardino County Superior Court