



June 8, 2021

United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, and Committee Members:

On behalf of our 1.5 million supporters nationwide, People For the American Way enthusiastically supports the confirmation of the three nominees for the Western District of Washington whose hearing is scheduled for June 9, 2021: David Estudillo, Lauren King, and Tana Lin.

It is vitally important for our nation to have highly qualified judges who recognize that the law should protect all of us, not just the powerful. Even before then-President-elect Biden took office, incoming White House Counsel Dana Remus wrote to every U.S. Senator regarding their recommendations for federal judges in their states:

President-elect Biden is eager to nominate individuals who reflect the best of America, and who look like America. We are confident this is a shared goal. We therefore ask that you propose talented individuals who would bring to these critically important roles a wide range of life and professional experiences, including those based on their race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, veteran status, and disability. ... With respect to U.S. District Court positions, we are particularly focused on nominating individuals whose legal experiences have been historically underrepresented on the federal bench, including those who are public defenders, civil rights and legal aid attorneys, and those who represent Americans in every walk of life.

This slate of three nominees for the Western District of Washington reflects this recognition that a federal judiciary with a broad range of personal and experiential diversity plays a vital role in ensuring that courts protect the interests of everybody, not just the wealthy and the powerful.

David Estudillo is the president of the Washington State Superior Court Judges' Association, having served as a state court judge since 2015. For a decade before that, he operated his own firm, representing immigrants in removal proceedings. He also represented plaintiffs in personal injury and breach of contract cases. He is the son of Mexican immigrants and would be only the second Latino judge ever to serve in the Western District.

Lauren King is a member of the Muscogee Nation and would only be the fifth Native American ever to serve as a federal judge—and the first in the Western District of Washington. She has significant experience representing tribes in litigation involving federal laws on historic preservation, tribal landholdings, and repatriation of Native American remains and other

funerary items. In addition to her private practice, she has served as a pro tem appellate court judge for the Northwest Intertribal Court System since 2013.

Tana Lin began her career as a public defender, then spent several years with the Justice Department and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission enforcing Title VII against public and private employers. She then spent three years as litigation coordinator of the Michigan Poverty Law Program before moving to Seattle, where she has spent more than 15 years representing individuals in cases including antitrust, consumer protection, employee retirement plan protection, environmental claims, fiduciary duty breaches by financial services companies, and labor and employment matters. If confirmed, Lin would be the Western District's first Asian American federal judge.

We urge senators to support this qualified slate of nominees from Washington.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marge Baker".

Marge Baker
Executive Vice President