



Northwest Indian Bar Association

May 28, 2021

Senator Dick Durbin
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Chuck Grassley
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The profession of the law of which [a judge] is a part is charged with the articulation and the final incidence of the successive efforts toward justice; it must feel the circulation of the communal blood or it will wither and drop off, a useless member.

—*Learned Hand*

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

The Northwest Indian Bar Association (“NIBA”) unreservedly supports swift and decisive confirmation of Lauren King (Muscogee Nation citizen) to serve as a judge for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington. Ms. King is ready to serve.

When confirmed, she will be only the third active Native American federal judge, and only the fifth Native American judge in the history of the federal courts. In short, this historic nomination is long overdue.

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Northwest Indian Bar Association

NIBA is an association of legal professionals in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. NIBA represents and fosters the education and welfare of Native American legal professionals and takes action to improve the legal and political landscape for the First Peoples of the Pacific Northwest.

Ms. King is Qualified to Serve

Lauren King's qualifications demonstrate her commitment to excellence in legal practice, public service, and education. Ms. King excels as a litigator and practitioner in diverse areas of law, including Native American and intellectual property law. She has judicial experience as an appellate judge for the Northwest Intertribal Court System. She has taught Native American law as an adjunct professor at Seattle University. And she has served as a volunteer board member for various organizations, including NIBA, and as a Commissioner on the Washington State Gambling Commission.

Ms. King's Confirmation Will Help Remedy Underrepresentation

A 2015 study by the National Native American Bar Association found that Native Americans comprise only .3% of attorneys in the United States, while Native Americans comprise 1.6% of the U.S. population. This study also concluded that Native attorneys are *severely* underrepresented in the federal and state judiciary. Native underrepresentation is particularly pronounced in Washington State, which is home to 29 federally recognized tribes but no Native American federal judges. Ms. King's confirmation will be one step toward remedying this underrepresentation.

For the above reasons and more, NIBA strongly urges the U.S. Senate to confirm Ms. King to serve as a judge for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington.

há?nəŋ cn (Thank you),



Anthony Jones
President, Northwest Indian Bar Association Governing Council