



June 4, 2021

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Ms. Tana Lin's Nomination to the United States District Court for
the Western District of Washington

Dear Senators Durbin and Grassley:

I write in support of Ms. Tana Lin's nomination to be a United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington. I hold Ms. Lin in the highest esteem, and I have no doubt that she will serve the judiciary very well.

Ms. Lin worked for the Michigan Poverty Law Program (MPLP) as the statewide litigation coordinator from 2001 – 2004. Michigan Poverty Law Program is a statewide resource center for legal services programs in Michigan. MPLP supports the advocacy of other legal services programs; coordinates advocacy for the poor among the local programs; and ensures that a full range of advocacy projects that benefit the poor are maintained. MPLP advocates for Michigan's low-income population with respect to low-income housing, family law, public benefits, consumer protections, and issues affecting the elderly.

As the MPLP managing attorney I supervised Ms. Lin's work and co-counseled in some of her cases. Ms. Lin is very resourceful, creative, and self-motivated. As the litigation coordinator, Ms. Lin was responsible for developing and strengthening MPLP's impact litigation docket and advocacy project. When Ms. Lin assumed this role, the litigation coordinator's position had been vacant for some time and consequently there was no template for her to follow. Ms. Lin met the challenge of essentially creating a new position. To develop litigation that would positively impact Michigan's low-income population, she needed to understand the community's needs. She very quickly reached out to the legal services providers throughout the state and community organizations to learn about their programs and the community. She then developed an impact litigation docket that included, among other things, challenges to widespread illegal billing practices by a local medical provider, a welfare fraud diversion program, and challenges to mass water shutoffs by a local municipality.

Ms. Lin is highly intelligent, conscientious, and hardworking. Ms. Lin came to MPLP lacking substantive knowledge in housing, family, elder, public benefits, and consumer law. But as the litigation coordinator she rose to the challenge and with hard work she quickly achieved mastery of relevant substantive law.

Based on my daily interactions with Ms. Lin and our frequent discussions about her cases and projects, I found her to be exceptionally attentive, engaged, and very perceptive. She possessed genuine intellectual curiosity and she consistently demonstrated initiative. She possesses precisely the temperament needed for judicial service.

I am confident that Ms. Lin will be an outstanding federal judge. I support her nomination without reservation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (734) 998 - 6100, ext. 613 or lorryb@mplp.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lorry S.C. Brown", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lorry S.C. Brown
Co-Executive Director, Michigan Statewide Advocacy Services
Managing Attorney, Michigan Poverty Law Program