

March 8, 2022

The Honorable Dick Durbin  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nomination of the Honorable Nina Y. Wang as District Judge, United States District Court for the District of Colorado

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We write as former law clerks of U.S. Magistrate Judge Nina Y. Wang to express our strong support for her nomination to serve as an Article III judge in the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado. Judge Wang is an extraordinary person and a truly dedicated judicial officer. We can think of no better person to fill this position.

When we heard that Judge Wang was applying for this position, we began to discuss the many reasons why we collectively agree she is the right person for the job. Consistent themes that emerged were her commitment to doing justice and developing jurisprudence, her skill as a presiding judge in consent trials, and her fair and compassionate treatment of people of all walks of life, including those who come before her in the courtroom and those who interact with her every day at the courthouse.

Judge Wang is committed to providing equal access to justice for all litigants who appear in her courtroom while maintaining the highest standards of impartiality and fairness. She very seriously weighs decisions that affect the rights of criminal defendants or civil liberties of underrepresented members of society. For example, we recall many lengthy discussions with her about the importance of the presumption against pretrial detention of criminal defendants. In addition, she closely scrutinizes issues related to qualified immunity in cases involving government actors. She has also expressed longstanding interest in issues related to restorative justice and the use of diversionary and alternative sentencing programs. We have all seen Judge Wang repeatedly make a point of carefully and clearly explaining aspects of the rules of civil procedure to pro se litigants so as not to unjustly deprive them of their day in court based on procedural technicalities. Her dedication to promoting equity and justice for all who appear before her is precisely the approach we want to see judicial officers at all levels of the federal court system embrace.

Judge Wang has presided over six trials by consent, including a two-week trial in Grand Junction. Throughout each trial, she demonstrated her commitment to being the most prepared person in the courtroom, to rendering comprehensive and reasoned decisions as timely as possible, and, perhaps most importantly, to maintaining a balanced and even temperament toward everyone. In the Grand Junction trial, the plaintiff, a young woman from a metropolitan area who had lost her arm in a collision between a car and an injured cow lying in the road, brought claims against a local rancher responsible for the cow. Judge Wang managed to navigate the high emotions and tension in the courtroom while quickly and correctly applying the rules of evidence and civil procedure, issuing informed decisions on substantive objections, and displaying an appropriate amount of empathy.

Judge Wang places emphasis on developing the court's jurisprudence by regularly issuing written opinions, even where she could just as easily rule from the bench and save herself and her clerks the extra effort. She explains that while ruling from the bench on discovery and trial issues is often appropriate, a written articulation of her findings is helpful to set expectations for litigants who appear in front of her and to advance judicial discourse. This commitment to developing the law is a characteristic that we admire about her and one that makes her uniquely well-served to fill the judicial vacancy.

Her judicial demeanor is fair but firm and professional. In chambers and outside of the courtroom, we know her to be warm, funny, and humble to a fault. She treats court staff and others with whom she interacts daily in the courthouse with collegiality and respect. And as former law clerks, we can each attest to her commitment to mentoring and playing an active role in our professional and personal development. She is not only an excellent judge and member of the community, but also a warm and gracious colleague.

We have worked for Judge Wang both inside and outside the courtroom since she took the bench in 2015. We have watched her thoughtful interactions with pro se litigants, the attorneys who come before her, and the courthouse staff who support chambers every day, and have observed her dedication to maintaining the integrity of the judicial process in every act she undertakes. We say without equivocation that Judge Wang is the right person to be named the next U.S. District Judge for the District of Colorado.

Respectfully Submitted,

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