



June 4, 2021

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
U.S. Senate Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Committee
U.S. Senate Washington, DC 20510

RE: David Estudillo

Dear Honorable Durbin and Honorable Grassley;

It is with great pleasure that I submit this Letter of Support for Judge David Estudillo in his application to serve as a Federal District Court Judge in Western Washington, sent on behalf of myself and the Washington State Association of Justice (WSAJ). I am the current WSAJ President and a personal injury attorney. I am also a Latina/o with strong connections to the Latina/o community in Washington State. I personally met David Estudillo over 20 years ago at a Latina/o Bar Association of Washington (LBAW) event. Over the years I have followed his career. I have nothing but respect and admiration for David Estudillo.

Judge Estudillo is an amazing American success story. While much of this is probably known through background checks, I want to share my knowledge and impression of his life.

His parents legally immigrated to the United States from Mexico via the Bracero Program to labor in the fields in the early 1960's. While raising 10 children, Eloy and Esperanza Estudillo were eventually able to save enough money to become small business owners. Judge Estudillo has noted his earliest memories are of helping clean and maintain his family's modest grocery store – still a fixture in this small town.

The Estudillo's impressed upon all their children the need to work hard and take advantage of every possible educational opportunity. Like many young people whose families had limited means, Judge Estudillo began his education at a community college but was able to graduate from the University of Washington with a degree in Finance and then earn a UW Law Degree.

Prior to his appointment to the Superior Court bench in the State of Washington, Judge Estudillo had significant experience in courtroom practice and procedure. For 16 years, he represented clients in civil disputes and immigration matters. He has represented both plaintiffs and defendants in complex civil litigation ranging from million dollar-plus claims to smaller issues faced by ordinary working people. As a lawyer, Judge Estudillo faced off against some of the state's most prominent law firms. Despite the

contentious nature of legal disputes, Judge Estudillo earned a reputation for his calm, professional relationships with opposing parties and attorneys.

Judge Estudillo speaks fluent Spanish, which is a significant advantage to him in a Superior Court where nearly 50% of the area's population is Latina/o. He is the only Latino judge in any trial court in this part of the state, which also features a heavy Spanish speaking population. Judge Estudillo serves as a role model for young people who come from disadvantaged families and communities, and he speaks to them regularly about the importance of education. He is a great example of giving back and helping others climb the rung.

For nearly six years, Judge Estudillo has been a respected and experienced trial court judge and has become both the court's Presiding Judge and the President of the statewide Superior Court Judges Association. This shows the very high regard his colleagues hold for him.

The strength of our federal judiciary is an important part of this country's democratic foundation. Our judiciary can only gain continued respect from the American people if it embraces the full diversity of perspective and experiences we have as a nation. Judge Estudillo's experiences are at once both unique and representative of the millions of Americans who lack privilege – but who work hard to give back to the people of this country.

Judge David Estudillo is a great asset and contributor to our community and to our legal system. He epitomizes the strength of character, intellect, and disposition we should be looking for in our Court system. He will be a great asset to the Federal bench in our region. Our only regret is that we lose him at the state court level, but our loss is the gain for the justice system in our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Celia Rivera', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Celia Rivera

President, WA State Association for Justice

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