



Eleven Dupont Circle NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20036
www.afj.org | 202-822-6070

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PRESIDENT
RAKIM BROOKS

CHAIR
PAULETTE MEYER

May 21, 2024

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairman Durbin:

On behalf of the Alliance for Justice, a national association representing more than 150 diverse organizations united in our commitment to justice, I write to express our support for the confirmation of Judge Anne Hwang to the United States District Court for the Central District of California. With over a decade of public defense experience, Judge Hwang will bring much needed professional diversity and experience to the federal bench.

A graduate of Cornell University and the University of Southern California Law School, Hwang began her legal career in 2002, as a litigation associate at Irell & Manella LLP. During her time at Irell & Manella LLP, Hwang focused on a variety of civil and criminal cases, including business disputes and federal criminal cases involving securities and tax fraud charges. Transitioning to public service, Hwang devoted her legal career from 2006 to 2018 to the Office of the Federal Public Defender, Central District of California, the very court she is now being considered for. Hwang began her public defense work in Santa Ana, where she served as a Deputy Federal Public Defender from 2006 to 2010. She then continued her dedicated service in Los Angeles from 2010 to 2014, as Deputy Federal Public Defender. Her exceptional skills and commitment led to her promotion to Supervising Deputy Federal Public Defender, a role she held from 2014 to 2016. She was then elevated to the position of Trial Chief Deputy from 2016 to 2018. Judge Hwang concluded her impactful tenure at the federal public defender's office as a Deputy Federal Public Defender. Throughout her time at the Office of the Public Defender, Hwang exclusively represented indigent defendants.

Judge Hwang has served on the Superior Court of California in Los Angeles County since 2019. Appointed by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. and re-elected in 2020, her tenure reflects her esteemed reputation and the high regard in which she is held by the California legal community. In her role at the Superior Court of California, a trial court of general jurisdiction, Judge Hwang expertly oversees civil cases, particularly those involving personal injury claims. She handles all proceedings leading up to trial, including pleadings, service of summons, discovery, pretrial motions, dispositive motions, and settlements, ensuring that each case is thoroughly prepared before being transferred to dedicated civil trial courts. Her dedication and meticulous approach underscores her commitment to justice and the efficient administration of the law.

In 2019, Judge Hwang was honored with the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Los Angeles Trailblazer in the Law award, recognizing her outstanding contributions to the legal profession. Her passion for legal education and mentorship is evident through her active engagement with law students, particularly via the California Asian Pacific American Judges Association. She frequently participates as a speaker and mentor at various law schools, demonstrating her unwavering commitment to guiding and inspiring the next generation of legal professionals.

Given her outstanding qualifications, we strongly encourage your office to ensure the Senate confirms Judge Anne Hwang to the United States District Court for the Central District of California without delay. Judge Hwang's professional journey is distinguished by her deep dedication to public service and her unwavering commitment to justice. Her extensive experience and exemplary service make her an exceptional nominee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rakim H.D. Brooks".

Rakim Brooks
President, Alliance for Justice