



The State Bar of California

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL NOMINEES EVALUATION

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October 31, 2022

SENT VIA EMAIL

Honorable Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye
Chief Justice of California
Chair, Commission on Judicial Appointments

Honorable Rob Bonta
Attorney General of California
Member, Commission on Judicial Appointments

Honorable Manuel A. Ramirez
Senior Presiding Justice of the State Courts of Appeal
Member, Commission on Judicial Appointments

Commission on Judicial Appointments
c/o Chief Justice of California
Supreme Court of California
350 McAllister Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
ATTN: Secretary to the Commission

**Re: Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation Report –
Nomination of the Honorable Kelli Evans to the
Office of Associate Justice, California Supreme Court**

Dear Commission on Judicial Appointments:

I am honored to present this report on behalf of the Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation to summarize the basis for the commission's rating of Judge Kelli Evans for the Office of Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court.

The commission conducted its evaluation of Judge Evans on October 21, 2022, finding her to be well qualified for service on the California Supreme Court. According to commission rules, this rating reflects the commission's determination that Judge Evans possesses qualities and attributes indicative of a superior fitness to perform the appellate judicial function with a high degree of skill, effectiveness, and distinction.

Judge Evans' 28-year legal career in both criminal and civil law has been marked by excellence and a demonstrated commitment to ensuring that all individuals receive due process and equal protection under the law.

She was raised in Denver, Colorado by her grandmother who, despite having little formal education herself, instilled in Judge Evans a love of learning. Thus inspired, Judge Evans earned her BA in Public Policy from Stanford University and her JD from the University of California, Davis, School of Law.

Since then, she has had a storied career serving the public in a variety of legal roles. She has advanced the cause of civil rights as a deputy public defender in Sacramento County, through nonprofit legal work at the American Civil Liberties Union and Equal Rights Advocates, and as a staff attorney with the United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. She also served as a monitor appointed by Judge Thelton Henderson to oversee implementation of the consent decree resolving claims of systematic civil-rights violations by members of the Oakland Police Department. In that role, Judge Evans deftly balanced the need for rapid implementation of the reforms required by the consent decree against the Department's legitimate need for time to complete those reforms, all while overcoming institutional resistance from some elements within the Department.

Judge Evans has also served the State of California through her roles as senior director for the administration of justice at the State Bar of California, as special assistant attorney general to California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, and as chief deputy legal affairs secretary to Governor Gavin Newsom. Currently, she serves as a judge in the Alameda County Superior Court, where she has presided over a range of matters, from small claims and civil harassment to criminal-diversion calendars.

Throughout her career, Judge Evans has been widely recognized for her intellectual curiosity, diligence, work ethic, humility, and integrity. She has published articles on a wide range of public-policy issues and earned several awards for her devotion to public service. Her colleagues on the Alameda County bench also laud her clear and specific written decisions and her collegial willingness to help in areas outside her assignments. From all this, the commission concluded that Judge Evans will make an outstanding Associate Justice and found her to be well qualified for the California Supreme Court.

As JNE Commission Chair, it is my honor and privilege to appear at the confirmation hearing of Judge Kelli Evans, on November 10, 2022, at 10 a.m., to testify as to the commission's evaluation.

Very truly yours,



Adam Hofmann

2022 Chair, Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation

cc: Ellen Louie, JNE Program Supervisor