



The State Bar of California

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL NOMINEES EVALUATION

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August 23, 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 Justice Patricia Guerrero
to the Office of Chief 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 (JNE) to summarize the basis of the JNE Commission's rating of Justice Patricia Guerrero for the Office of Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court.

The JNE Commission conducted its evaluation of Justice Guerrero on August 19, 2022, finding her to be exceptionally well qualified for service as Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court. According to JNE Commission rules, that rating reflects the commission's determination that Justice Guerrero possesses qualities and attributes of remarkable or extraordinary superiority that enable her to perform the appellate judicial function with distinction.

Justice Guerrero was raised in the small farming town of Imperial where her father and many other family members still reside. She attributes her work ethic to her hardworking parents, who emigrated from Mexico. She describes her father as a cowboy who worked primarily in feedlots. Her mother contributed financially to the household by working as the cherished babysitter for other neighborhood kids.

After graduating from Imperial High School, Justice Guerrero attended the University of California, Berkeley, graduating in the top-four percent of students and earning a place on the Dean's Honors List. She was also awarded a Julie Ann Ginsbach Scholarship as one of the two most distinguished students in the Legal Studies major. She obtained a B.A. in Legal Studies and graduated magna cum laude in 1994. She financed her entire college education through scholarships and part-time employment, working more than 20 hours per week.

Justice Guerrero then attended Stanford Law School, where she earned a Hilmer Oehlmann, Jr. Prize, awarded to up to two students for outstanding work in the first-year Legal Research and Writing Program. She obtained her J.D. in June 1997.

That same year, Justice Guerrero began her career as an associate at Latham & Watkins, LLP in San Francisco, where she focused on environmental matters. In 2002, she joined the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of California, where she prosecuted a range of federal crimes, including drug trafficking, the smuggling of noncitizens, and immigration violations. In 2003, she returned to Latham as an associate in its San Diego office, and she was promoted to partner in 2006. At Latham, the candidate's practice included environmental litigation, environmental-enforcement matters, both civil and criminal, and assisting clients with internal investigations of environmental concerns. She also maintained an active pro bono practice, representing clients on matters involving immigration issues, securing Social Security benefits, and fair-housing laws.

In addition to managing large teams on her complex litigation matters, Justice Guerrero also took on significant administrative responsibilities at Latham. She served first on the firm's Associates Committee and later as global chair of Latham's Training & Career Enhancement Committee, developing education academies for the attorneys and establishing a formal, firmwide mentoring program.

In June 2013, Justice Guerrero was appointed to the San Diego County Superior Court, where she served until December 2017. During her time on the superior court, she presided over a range of cases. She also served as the assistant supervising judge, and then as the supervising judge for the court.

In November 2017, Justice Guerrero was appointed to the California Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, in San Diego, where she presided over appeals and writ petitions from San Diego and Imperial Counties. Then, on March 28, 2022, Justice Guerrero was elevated to the California Supreme Court, where she sits today as an associate justice. In addition to her case load, she is also a member of the court's professional-development initiative and is currently working to create a bias committee for the California Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal.

Justice Guerrero is a dedicated public servant outside of the courtroom as well. She previously chaired the State Bar's Blue Ribbon Commission on the Future of the Bar Exam and the Judicial Council of California Advisory Committee on Criminal Jury Instructions. In 2013 and 2016, she served on a screening panel, evaluating applicants for appointment and reappointment to serve as magistrate judges in the United States District Court, Southern District of California. Her civic responsibilities also include participation in Judges in the Classroom, a program where judicial officers engage grade K-12 students on a variety of legal topics, including the United States Constitution, the rule of law, and voting rights.

For her distinguished career and efforts in the community, Justice Guerrero has been recognized by bar associations and community organizations. In 2012, Casa Cornelia Law Center recognized her outstanding pro bono legal representation in its Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals clinic. In 2017, she was named Judicial Officer of the Year by the San Diego Family Law Bar Association. That same year, she was recognized as the Distinguished Jurist of the Year by the Southern California Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

In her free time, Justice Guerrero enjoys spending time with her husband and two teenage sons, as well as swimming, golfing, horseback riding, and snowboarding.

From her work in and out of the courtroom, the JNE Commission concluded that Justice Guerrero is a uniquely qualified jurist. She has had an exceptional career as a litigator in both the private and public sectors and possesses substantial experience in every area of the law at the trial and appellate level. She is universally lauded for her superior intellect, clear writing, judicial temperament, work ethic, and compassion. Justice Guerrero also has significant managerial experience in both the private and public sectors, as well as on the bench, and is praised by other bench officers for her collegiality.

As a jurist, Justice Guerrero demonstrates fidelity to the law and displays sound judgment. She is the ideal choice to be California's next Chief Justice, and the JNE Commission accordingly found her to be exceptionally well qualified for that office.

As JNE Commission Chair, it is my honor and privilege to appear at the confirmation hearing of the Honorable Patricia Guerrero, on August 26, 2022, at 10:00 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