



November 2, 2020

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The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Confirmation of Shireen Matthews for United States District Court Judge for the Southern District of California

Dear Senator McConnell:

The South Asian Bar Association of San Diego (“SABA-SD”) strongly supports the decision of President Trump to nominate Shireen Matthews to serve on the United States District Court for the Southern District of California. Ms. Matthews was re-nominated by President Trump this year after her nomination expired last year, and was voted out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on a voice vote earlier this year, demonstrating broad bi-partisan support for her nomination among the Senators serving on that Committee. SABA-SD, joined by its undersigned sister chapters across the country, urges you to schedule a floor vote for Ms. Matthews so that the Senate can swiftly confirm her to the federal bench.

Ms. Matthews is a former president of SABA-SD, a San Diego-based nonprofit that strives to promote the professional and academic development of legal professionals of South Asian-American descent, and to provide opportunities for collaboration with those interested in the issues affecting South Asian-Americans in the community.

Ms. Matthews is an accomplished attorney whose record is, without question, worthy of this nomination. She received her B.A., magna cum laude, from Georgetown University, and her J.D., cum laude, from Duke University School of Law. After a prestigious judicial clerkship with Judge Irma E. Gonzalez (Ret.) of the United States District Court for the Southern District of California, Ms. Matthews continued her path of excellence in the public and private sectors.

As a former federal prosecutor for the U.S. Attorney’s Office in the Southern District of California, she successfully prosecuted anti-kickback violations, criminal false claims, and aggravated identity theft. A few of her many success stories include uncovering a multimillion-dollar fraud involving stolen medical equipment from Camp Pendleton; investigating health care fraud involving a hospital CEO; prosecuting a San Diego based biotech firm for contract fraud; and obtaining one of the largest individual restitution awards for the Social Security trust fund. Ms. Matthews also handled complex business litigation at Latham & Watkins, a top tier international law firm. She now continues in private practice as a partner at the internationally renowned firm, Jones Day, where her practice focuses on a mix of internal investigations, civil litigation, and white-collar cases.

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SOUTH ASIAN LAWYERS OF SAN DIEGO



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At every stage of her career, Ms. Matthews has exhibited knowledge of the law, balanced temperament, and fairness. Her strengths as a skilled advocate include her broad trial experience and her knowledge of civil and criminal law. She has experience successfully briefing and arguing before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals; and advising Fortune 100 companies.

At present, there are only a handful of South Asian-American women judges who serve on the federal bench. If confirmed, Ms. Matthews will be the first South Asian-American woman to serve as an Article III federal judge in California. Her confirmation would be a groundbreaking first step for the Southern District of California in reflecting the diversity of the San Diego population, and the state of California at large.

Ms. Matthews will administer justice with impartiality, integrity, and conviction. SABA-SD, and all the co-signatory South Asian Bar Associations across the country, believe it is in the best interest of our community and the judicial system to confirm Ms. Matthews to the United States District Court for the Southern District of California without further delay.

Very truly yours,

Tarina Mand, President
South Asian Bar Association of San Diego

Priya Bhanu, President-Elect
South Asian Bar Association of D.C.

Rahil Darbar, President
South Asian Bar Association of New Jersey

Rohit Nath, Judicial Evaluations Director
South Asian Bar Association of Southern California

Madhurima Paturi, President
South Asian Bar Association of Florida

Vishal Shah, President
South Asian Bar Association of Philadelphia

cc: The Honorable Lindsey Graham, Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
The Honorable Larry Burns, Chief Judge, U.S. District Court, S.D. Cal.