July 13, 2021

SUPPORT THE CONFIRMATION OF JUDGE DAVID ESTUDILLO TO THE
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

Dear Senator:

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition of more than 220
national organizations committed to promoting and protecting the civil and human rights of all persons in
the United States, we write to express our strong support for the confirmation of Judge David Estudillo to
the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington.

Judge Estudillo’s extensive experience and demonstrated commitment to civil rights make him well
qualified to serve as a federal judge. For nearly six years, he has served as a state court judge on the Grant
County Superior Court in Washington, where he has presided over more than 1,000 cases. Previously,
Judge Estudillo spent 10 years operating his own immigration law firm, representing individuals seeking
asylum, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals protections, work authorizations, temporary protected
status, and citizenship. Following his graduations from the University of Washington and the University
of Washington School of Law, Judge Estudillo worked at two law firms handling defense and plaintiff-
side work and complex multiparty litigation. Judge Estudillo’s experience will make him an asset to the
U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington.

In addition to his impressive career, Judge Estudillo’s lived experience would also bring important
perspectives to the federal bench. Judge Estudillo’s parents were farmworkers who emigrated from
Mexico. If confirmed, he would be only the second Latino judge to ever serve on this court.1 Washington
is home to more than 1.1 million immigrants2 and nearly 1 million Hispanic or Latino individuals.3 It is
imperative that judges share characteristics and experiences with the people impacted by their decisions
because it helps to increase public trust in the judiciary, fosters better jurisprudence that is more reflective
of the experiences of a diverse nation,4 and improves judicial decision-making.5 The judiciary needs to
reflect both demographic diversity and the experiential diversity of the legal profession, including more
judges experienced in ensuring that the civil rights of all people are protected and defended. Judge
Estudillo would bring this diversity and meaningful experience to the federal bench.

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includes all Western District of Washington judges whose race or ethnicity includes Hispanic/Latino.

foreign-born population of Washington.

Hispanic/Latino people of any race in Washington.

4 Berry, Kate. “Building a Diverse Bench: Selecting Federal Magistrate and Bankruptcy Judges.” Brennan Center for
Justice at NYU School of Law and American Bar Association Judicial Division. 2017.

5 Sen, Maya. “Diversity, Qualifications, and Ideology: How Female and Minority Judges Have Changed, or Not Changed,
Judge Estudillo has demonstrated his commitment to civil rights throughout his career, and his experience working towards equal justice qualifies him to serve in the federal judiciary. We urge the Senate to confirm Judge David Estudillo to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please contact Lena Zwarensteyn, Senior Director of the Fair Courts Campaign, at (202) 466-3311. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Wade Henderson    Jesselyn McCurdy
Interim President & CEO   Interim Executive Vice President of Government Affairs