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May 18, 2010

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
361-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-1702

Dear Senator McConnell:

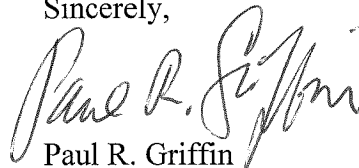
I am a registered Republican in the San Francisco area and a long-time corporate defense attorney in the Northern District of California. I wrote to Senator Sessions in October 2009 in support of Magistrate Judge Edward Chen's nomination for U.S. District Judge. A copy of my letter is attached. Now that his nomination is out of committee, I wanted to write again and give you the benefit of my experience with Magistrate Judge Chen.

In addition to having been a practicing attorney myself for 32 years, I come from a family of judges (and Republicans), whom you may know, or know of. My father, the Honorable Robert P. Griffin served on the Michigan Supreme Court from 1987-1994, following 12 years in the U.S. Senate (R-Mich) as Minority Whip with Hugh Scott and Howard Baker (1966-1979), and 10 years in the House of Representatives (1957-1966). My brother, the Hon. Richard Allen Griffin, currently sits on the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, having been appointed by President George W. Bush in 2005. He previously sat on the Michigan Court of Appeals from 1989-2005.

Based on my own experience litigating before judges, and observing my father and brother develop into very distinguished jurists, I believe good judges, whatever their personal beliefs may be, are committed to being objective and fair in applying the law. Magistrate Judge Chen in my opinion is one of those judges. Further, I believe there is no substitute for judicial experience, and Magistrate Judge Chen has served for many years very admirably as a magistrate judge.

For the reasons described in more detail in the attached letter, and those stated above, I would urge the Senate to confirm Magistrate Judge Chen's nomination for U.S. District Judge.

Sincerely,


Paul R. Griffin

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October 28, 2009

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
335 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sessions:

I am a registered Republican in the San Francisco area (one of the few) and a long-time corporate defense attorney in the Northern District of California. I am a senior partner in a large prominent law firm. I am writing, however, in my personal capacity in support of Magistrate Edward Chen's nomination for U.S. District Judge.

I do not have any cases currently pending before Magistrate Chen or any reason to send this letter other than to share my very positive experience with Magistrate Chen and to urge that he be confirmed. While a partner at a previous firm, my corporate client was sued by a small competitor in the bedding and linen industry for alleged antitrust and copyright violations. Plaintiffs claimed they had been damaged in the amount of \$30 million (after trebling) and also sought attorneys fees and costs. Magistrate Chen was our assigned settlement magistrate and did an absolutely wonderful job.

Perhaps like you, my corporate client was concerned initially by Magistrate Chen's tenure with the ACLU and feared that he may be inclined to favor the plaintiff because he was the "small guy." I had never appeared before him and did not know what to expect. Our concerns were quickly erased at the settlement conference, however, as Magistrate Chen was extremely professional, objective and fair. He spent the better part of a day with us, rather than the assigned hour or two. He conscientiously sought to learn as much as he could about the case. Upon learning the facts, he agreed with my corporate client's position on all issues and was instrumental in persuading the plaintiff to settle at a very small fraction of the claimed damages.

The case would not have settled without Magistrate Chen's involvement, commitment and objectivity. He is truly judicial in the finest sense of the word. We need more federal judges like Edward Chen.

Sincerely,


Paul R. Griffin

cc:

Senator Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Magistrate Judge Edward M. Chen
United States District Court
Courtroom C, 15th Floor
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Chief Judge Vaughn R. Walker
United States District Court
Courtroom 6, 17th Floor
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102