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March 19, 2010

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Nomination of Goodwin H. Liu
to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Dear Senator Sessions:

President Obama has stated that he will seek to appoint to the federal bench individuals who are dedicated to the rule of law, who honor our constitutional traditions, and who respect the integrity of the judicial process and the appropriate limits of the judicial role. Professor Goodwin H. Liu, a Californian, is such a person. The California Labor Federation, representing 1.4 million working families, wholeheartedly supports his nomination to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Professor Liu's upbringing represents the American Dream. His parents emigrated from Taiwan with little money but worked hard to make the most of the opportunities that America offered. Professor Liu and his older brother did not learn English until they started kindergarten. Yet, he graduated high school in Sacramento as valedictorian. After graduating from Stanford and obtaining a Master's Degree at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar, he attended Yale Law School, where he was editor of the Yale Law Journal. He clerked for Judge David S. Tatel on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and with Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the U.S. Supreme Court. These are remarkable accomplishments for a first generation American.

He has a strong belief in the importance of giving back to society. Although he was a biology major in college and was admitted to top medical schools such as Harvard and the University of California at San Francisco, Professor Liu's involvement in student government and as a summer school teacher for low-income youth moved him toward law and public service. He has worked extensively on creating public service opportunities, and while working for the federal government, assisted in the start of the AmeriCorps program.

Professor Liu has had a distinguished academic career at the University of California-Berkeley School of Law. He is highly regarded by his students, and greatly respected by his peers. In 2009, Professor Liu received UC Berkeley's Distinguished Teaching Award, the

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university's most prestigious award for teaching excellence, and he was selected that year by the graduating class to be a commencement speaker. He has published numerous scholarly treatises.

Professor Liu's background and life experiences show that he would be an excellent jurist. As a Supreme Court Justice recently noted, it is important for the courts to have people with varied backgrounds and many different experiences sitting on the bench. The court is enriched by such jurists, and Professor Liu would bring a fresh view to the Ninth Circuit.

The courts are regularly presented with claims that affect working families, such as the failure to pay overtime; discrimination based on race, gender, disability or other grounds; the improper use of pension fund assets; and attacks on their unions by employers unhappy with their union's efforts to organize and represent more workers. Judges need to fairly assess these claims, and to interpret the Nation's laws in a manner that promotes the goals of those laws. We believe that Professor Liu will be such a judge.

In sum, we believe that Professor Liu has the skills, temperament and qualifications to be a first-rate judge. He would be an outstanding addition to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. We strongly urge that his nomination be voted out of committee unanimously, and confirmed without delay by the Senate.

Sincerely,



Art Pulaski

Executive Secretary-Treasurer

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