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October 18, 2017

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of James C. Ho to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

I am pleased to offer my strong support for the appointment of Jim Ho to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

By way of introduction, I am an attorney who has practiced for 45 years in the San Francisco Bay Area, currently with the firm of Minami Tamaki LLP in San Francisco. In the public arena, I served on several judicial evaluation committees—the State Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation (“CJNE”), the San Francisco Bar Association Judiciary Committee and on Senator Barbara Boxer’s Judicial Appointments Review Committee. I have also served as a Commissioner on the Fair Employment and Housing Commission and as the Chair of the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund, appointed by President Clinton.

As an active member of the Asian Pacific American (“APA”) and legal communities, I have helped found the Asian Law Caucus, Inc.—the first community-interest law firm serving APA’s in the United States; the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area—the first APA bar Association in the country; and the Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans—one of the first APA political action committees in the United States. I have also been involved with the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (“NAPABA”) since its founding. I only cite this background to offer some credibility to my opinions expressed below.

I met Jim over 15 years ago through our mutual participation in NAPABA and have watched with great pride the steep trajectory of his career, both as a lawyer with an extraordinary

record of achievement in private practice and government service alike, and as a leader in the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. I have enjoyed a personal relationship and have been impressed with his intelligence, calmness, humility, sense of humor and collegiality, traits that would surely constitute ideal qualifications for an appellate jurist.

Over the years, I developed relationships with many of the local APA lawyers and local bar associations throughout the country and I believe I can credibly confirm that his appointment to the federal judiciary would be greatly welcomed by Asian Pacific American lawyers across the country as he enjoys enormous respect of Asian Pacific American lawyers nationwide. As an immigrant, born in Taiwan, becoming a U.S. citizen as a child, attending college and law school, and his noteworthy successes as an attorney speak to the fulfillment of the American Dream, which our communities embrace. And the success in not just monetary, but in both public service and private practice - as a former Supreme Court clerk, state solicitor general, Justice Department aide, counselor to a powerful U.S. Senator, and major law firm partner and practice group leader. Throughout his career, Jim has never lost sight of where he came from. I have observed him over these years, and I know that he clearly enjoys mentoring Asian Pacific American lawyers, and speaks and writes often about Asian Pacific American issues. And as a decades long active member of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, I appreciate his years of service and leadership in the Asian Pacific American legal community.

During my respective tenures as an evaluator of jurists for both State and Federal judgeships, I believe I have some expertise in assessing the qualities which make successful trial and appellate judges and I believe Jim possesses all of those qualities, some of which I described earlier. In addition to "intelligence, calmness, humility, sense of humor and collegiality", I would add integrity, thoughtfulness, graciousness and a strong sense of fairness, a rare quality but one which makes for a great jurist. In other words, he is the total package!

Even as a lifelong Democrat, I still learned through my judicial evaluation experiences that great jurists possess great qualities regardless of political affiliation and I believe Jim will be one of those rare jurists who will become as universally respected as a judge as he has been as an attorney. I have absolutely no reservations wholeheartedly endorsing him for the Fifth Circuit. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale Minami". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dale Minami

CC: Senator Kamala Harris