

April 19, 2010



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RE: Application of Angelo N. Ancheta - #34353

Dear Selection Committee:

Angelo Ancheta, an applicant for membership on the Citizens Redistricting Committee, is an assistant law professor and the Executive Director of the Katharine and George Alexander Community Law Center, the civil clinical component of Santa Clara University Law School. I am a Professor of Law at Santa Clara University Law School, where I have been employed since 1975, and am also the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Prior to Mr. Ancheta's arrival in May 2005, I served as the Executive Director of the Law Center, a position I held from approximately 2001-2005. Therefore, I worked very closely with Mr. Ancheta during the transition period five years ago after he was hired as both a faculty member and the Director of the Law Center. Since that time, I have served on his faculty mentoring committee and several other committees with him, and he and I have had the opportunity to discuss a wide variety of topics in many different settings.

Mr. Ancheta is a highly intelligent and a very perceptive individual. He is committed to increasing the representation of all segments of the population in the legal profession. In addition, he is thoroughly familiar with the need to provide individuals from all income levels with competent representation. The Law Center serves the poorest of the poor of Silicon Valley. As Director of the Law Center, Mr. Ancheta oversees the delivery of legal services to these clients, supervising four clinical professors and indirectly approximately 100 law students per year. He is continually interacting with both his clinical and his classroom students who come from a variety of backgrounds. (SCU Law School is one of the ten most diverse law schools in the country.) His personal interactions with these individuals, as well as with the Law Center clients, have always been sensitive and are characterized by empathy and understanding. His approach to the problems the clients (and his students) present is unbiased, analytical and fair. These qualities will serve him well as a member of the redistricting commission.

Voting rights and election law are two of Mr. Ancheta's specialties. His doctrinal teaching has focused on these areas, as well as on Constitutional Law. I am sure that he knows and has taught the law involving redistricting, which would be an advantage to the commission.

Prior to joining the faculty at SCU Law School, Mr. Ancheta had acquired a myriad of skills as a researcher, author, nonprofit manager, and legal services attorney. He has worked extensively on

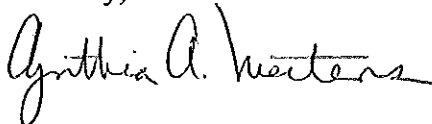
immigration and civil rights issues. His research has involved interaction with political scientists and social scientists, where he uses his graduate training in statistics to complement his understanding of his work. Familiarity with these issues, and his ability to research and write, will also benefit the commission.

I have some basic understanding that Mr. Ancheta worked on California redistricting in the early 1990s. This experience must have given him technical exposure to social scientists and other experts involved in issues that will be similar to those the current commission will face.

Any member of the redistricting commission must be impartial if the lines drawn are to be fair. Mr. Ancheta possesses this ability. He is open-minded, and he respectfully considers opinions that differ from his. He relates well to people from diverse backgrounds, as his work at the Law Center demonstrates. Committee work here at the Law School has proven that Mr. Ancheta is a team player who brings sharp analytical skills to the table but who is tolerant and accepting. He is non-judgmental, yet is willing to thoughtfully challenge positions that differ from his. He always does so respectfully. These traits will benefit him and the other members of the commission.

In summary, I believe that Mr. Ancheta would be an exceptionally well-qualified member of the Citizens Redistricting Committee. He is impartial and unbiased and always very fair. (Law students particularly would bring it to my attention if he were perceived otherwise.) He has a background that provides him with the necessary tools to "hit the ground running." Mr. Ancheta relates to people in a professional but friendly manner, and quickly earns the respect of his peers. I unequivocally recommend Mr. Ancheta for a position on the Citizens Redistricting Committee. If you would like additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Cynthia A. Mertens
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Professor of Law