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**From:** D Rubiano [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2010 12:16 AM  
**To:** Voters First Act  
**Subject:** recommendation letter for Angelo N. 325Ancheta – Applicant #34353

Voters FIRST Act, Bureau of State Audits  
555 Capitol Mall, Suite 300  
Sacramento CA 95814

RE: Angelo Ancheta – Applicant #34353

Dear Applicant Review Panel:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the application of Angelo Ancheta to be a member of the Citizens Redistricting Commission. I have known Angelo for nearly 27 years and have worked with him on several projects, and I believe he has the necessary qualities -- including fairness and the ability to be impartial, a deep appreciation of California's diversity, and strong analytical skills -- that would make him an excellent member of the commission.

I am currently a staff attorney with the Asian Law Alliance, a nonprofit legal organization based in San Jose that provides free legal services to low-income individuals in Santa Clara County. I have been an attorney with the Asian Law Alliance since 1989, focusing primarily in the areas of family law, domestic violence, and immigration law. The Asian Law Alliance works in coalition with a variety of groups, including Asian American legal services organizations in other cities and local coalitions that include Santa Clara University's Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center, the clinical program which Angelo Ancheta currently directs. Angelo and I worked together at the Asian Law Alliance in the late 1980s and early 1990s, but I have known him since we were in law school at UCLA, beginning in 1983.

Based on my direct experience working with Angelo, I believe him to be very well qualified to serve as a commissioner. He was a very successful law student and demonstrated his ability to work well with others in small group settings through his experience with public interest organizations, legal services efforts, and the school's law review. At the Asian Law Alliance, he developed an extensive knowledge of several areas of law, including immigration law, employment law, and civil rights law, and also demonstrated great skill as a team player and administrator, serving as both managing attorney and acting executive director when he worked with the office.

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Angelo was quickly recognized as a community leader and coalition builder during his time at the Asian Law Alliance, and showed that he possesses the work ethic and leadership skills necessary to work successfully in any small or large group setting. At the same time, he possesses an easygoing manner, fine sense of humor, and openness to competing viewpoints that helps lead to conflict resolution and consensus. Even on very controversial community issues, such as the rights of undocumented immigrants, immigration reform, and affirmative action, he has been respectful of opposing viewpoints, even when he has taken a position as an advocate.

Prior to pursuing an academic career, Angelo continued his work as a legal services lawyer and nonprofit manager in both Los Angeles and San Francisco. I was able to observe Angelo through his coalition work with my office and other offices, and Angelo continued to develop the strong skill set that he demonstrated at the Asian Law Alliance, and his work on various projects -- as a legal services and civil rights attorney, as a nonprofit manager and board member for an immigrant rights coalition in Los Angeles, and as a researcher on civil rights issues at a major university -- expanded his analytical skills and his appreciation for diverse populations. His experience on regional and statewide coalitions dealing with immigrant's civil rights were especially useful, in my opinion, to expanding his appreciation of California's racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity.

In the early 1990s, when he was a staff attorney at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California, Angelo worked with a statewide coalition of Asian American organizations (including the Asian Law Alliance) that advocated for redistricting compliance with the Voting Rights Act and the fair representation of Asian American voters and communities in the redistricting process. By working on redistricting, Angelo honed his knowledge of voting rights law and acquired additional skills working with technical experts and social scientists that are virtually identical to the skills needed by the members of the Citizens Commission.

Angelo has been a professor and clinic director at Santa Clara University since 2005, as well as a researcher and teacher at Harvard University and New York University, and he has specialized in constitutional law, civil rights law, and voting rights. He has written law review and other academic articles on voting rights, and he has taught classes in election law since he started at Santa Clara. His academic work demonstrates that he has a very strong set of analytical skills appropriate for the redistricting process. He is recognized nationally as an expert in the area of voting rights and language assistance, and he continues to write in this area of law. His teaching experience, in the classroom as well as in the clinic, also demonstrate Angelo's ability to be fair and impartial. Much of the material that he teaches, including equal protection law and First Amendment law, involve highly controversial areas of law and public

policy that require the careful handling of diverse opinions and perspectives.

I have no question that Angelo Ancheta has all of the necessary qualifications to be an outstanding Commission member and that he would provide tireless work for the Commission if given the opportunity. He is fair and open-minded and certainly has the ability to act impartially and to set aside personal bias; he has a clear and demonstrated understanding of the diversity of the State of California; and he possesses an analytical skill set that includes legal, social scientific, problem solving, and communication skills that are exceptional. I highly recommend him for appointment to the Commission.

Sincerely,  
Donnalynn S. Rubiano  
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