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TIFERETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

IN OUR EIGHTH DECADE

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October 7, 1980

Judge Earl B. Gilliam
U.S. Court House
940 Front Street
San Diego, CA 92189

Dear Earl:

It is with a deep sense of personal satisfaction and pride that I congratulate you on your induction as Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of California. What a tremendous sense of accomplishment you must feel. Yours is such a glorious honor, such a prestigious position.

Earl, in Judaism there is no higher status than a Rabbi, and in the Rabbinate there is no higher status than a dayan--a judge. There were two dayanim in my family and rabbis from all over the country would consult them on difficult points of Jewish law whenever there were differences of opinion amongst them. Chief Justice Warren of our United States Supreme Court studied periodically with such scholars at the Jewish Theological Seminary. In Jewish theology and in the Bible God is spoken of as judge of the earth. When Abraham pleaded with God to spare the people of Sodom and Gemorrah, he appealed to Him as a judge who should temper his justice with mercy.

As you can see, my dear friend, yours is an awesome responsibility. Not only do you possess the title of dayan but you must constantly make reference to the spark of godliness in you that connects you to the Divine Judge. I look backward with much joy at the friendship and mutual respect that has brought us together to serve the best interests of our community, and look forward with pleasure to the growth of that relationship in the years to come.

God has blessed you with a keen intellect, a delightful sense of humor and a sensitive and compassionate heart. I know that you will use these qualities in the service you will render as Judge of the United States District Court.

With abiding friendship, admiration and respect, I remain,

Cordially,

Aaron

Dr. Aaron S. Gold
Rabbi

ASG:m