

June 17, 2022

The Honorable Dick Durbin,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley,
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Enthusiastic support for the confirmation of Rachel Bloomekatz to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

As Jewish community leaders in Ohio and nationally, we urge the confirmation of Rachel Bloomekatz to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Though we come from different denominations of Judaism and hold varying political views, we are united in our view that Ms. Bloomekatz is exceedingly well qualified to serve as an appeals court judge and would bring to the bench a commitment to justice for all that is grounded in her Jewish faith. We would welcome the addition of a Jewish judge in active status on the Sixth Circuit.

Through her resolute pursuit of justice on behalf of public interest clients, Ms. Bloomekatz has built an appellate law practice that reflects the core Jewish commitment to “repairing the world” (*tikkun olam*). Ms. Bloomekatz has dedicated her legal career to ensuring equal justice under law, strengthening our democracy, and protecting the rights enshrined in the Constitution.

Ms. Bloomekatz has stellar credentials as a former clerk to Justice Stephen Breyer of the U.S. Supreme Court and as a distinguished appellate litigator who has argued and won cases in federal and state courts around the country. But we also know her as a committed and active participant in her local Jewish community, including as a board member of Jewish Family Services of Columbus, a member of her congregation’s ritual committee, and a parent to a Columbus Jewish Day School student.¹

¹ Though not technically a qualification for a judicial appointment, Ms. Bloomekatz’s hamantaschen (cookies for the Jewish holiday of Purim) were praised in a hand-written note by the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg as “better than my grandmother’s.”

We are confident that Ms. Bloomekatz would serve with integrity and distinction on the Sixth Circuit and strongly urge her swift confirmation.

Sincerely,

Note on Signatures: Signatures are made in individual capacities. Titles and affiliations are listed for identification purposes only.

Rabbi B. Elka Abrahamson
President, The Wexner Foundation

Rachel Arcus-Goldberg
Head of School, Columbus Jewish Day School

Howie Beigelman
Executive Director, Ohio Jewish Communities

Rabbi Harold J. Berman
Rabbi Emeritus, Congregation Tifereth Israel (Columbus)
Executive Director, National Council of Synagogues

Rabbi Alex Braver
Associate Rabbi, Congregation Tifereth Israel (Columbus)

Eric S. Brown
Member, Columbus Board of Education
Former Chief Justice, Ohio Supreme Court

Marilyn Brown
Former County Commissioner, Franklin County, Ohio

Rabbi Lindsey Danziger
Lead Organizer, Ohio Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

Eric Fingerhut
President and Chief Executive Officer, The Jewish Federations of North America

Allan Finkelstein
President Emeritus, Jewish Community Centers Association of North America

Rabbi Steven Greenberg
Founding Director, Eshel

Pam Gurwin
Chair, Board of Directors, Jewish Family Services of Columbus

June Gutterman, Ed.D.
Former Chief Executive Officer, Jewish Family Services of Columbus

Gordon Hecker
Former Chief Executive Officer, Jewish Federation of Columbus

Sheila Katz
Chief Executive Officer, National Council of Jewish Women

Rabbi Rick Kellner
Rabbi, Congregation Beth Tikvah (Columbus)

Joel Marcovitch
Chief Executive Officer, Jewish Columbus

Rabbi Sharon Mars
Senior Rabbi, Temple Israel (Columbus)

Cantor Bat-Ami Moses
Cantor, Temple Israel (Columbus)

Rabbi Jay Moses
Vice President, The Wexner Foundation

Karen Mozenter
Chief Executive Officer, Jewish Family Services of Columbus

Margie Pizzuti
Former President and Chief Executive Officer, Goodwill Industries of Central Ohio

Reuben Rotman
President and Chief Executive Officer, Network of Jewish Human Services Agencies

Ruth Rubin
President, Board of Trustees, Columbus Jewish Day School

Ronit Sherwin
Campus Support Director, Hillel International

Rabbi Joel Simonds
Executive Director, Jewish Center for Justice

Rabbi Hillel Skolnik
Senior Rabbi, Congregation Tifereth Israel (Columbus)

Rabbi Sharon Barr Skolnik
Program Director, Wexner Service Corps, The Wexner Foundation

Rabbi Amy Idit Solomon
Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Hasidah

Susan (Susie) Stern
Community Activist

Rabbi Howard Zack
Spiritual Leader, Congregation Torat Emet/Main Street Synagogue (Columbus)

Rabbi Tali Zelkowitz, Ph.D.
Director, Curriculum and Research, The Wexner Foundation

Rabbi Misha Zinkow
Rabbi Emeritus, Temple Israel (Columbus)