

April 25, 2022

Hon. Dick Durbin
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C 20510

Hon. Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: *Natasha Merle, Nominee for the United States District Court
for the Eastern District of New York*

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We were very pleased when the President nominated our friend and colleague Natasha Merle to serve as a judge on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, and we are writing to express our enthusiastic support for her candidacy.

We are all partners or senior lawyers at prominent national and international law firms that primarily represent large companies, institutional investors and financial institutions. Most of us are litigators with decades of experience practicing before both trial level and appellate courts across the country, primarily in the federal court system. Our experience runs the gamut from securities, mergers and acquisitions and commercial litigation to insurance disputes to antitrust litigation to regulatory investigations and enforcement and white collar criminal defense.

Many of us are former law clerks to federal appellate and district court judges, and several of us are former federal prosecutors who worked in U.S. Attorney's offices around the country or at the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. A number of us also are or have been instructors at leading law schools.

Despite the diversity of our respective professional experiences, we have all had the pleasure to work with Natasha in a variety of settings over the course of her career. Not only is she a smart and creative lawyer, but she is diligent, thoughtful and fair – which are among the important attributes for a prospective judge.

As you undoubtedly know, Natasha began her career as a law clerk to two distinguished federal judges, served as a federal public defender, and then joined a large Wall Street law firm where she served as an associate in the litigation department handling primarily high-stakes commercial and financial disputes for institutional clients. She then moved to the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, where she rose through the ranks over the next several years

handling both criminal justice and voting rights issues. She consistently impressed her colleagues and her co-counsel not only with her legal skills but also her collegiality and compassion.

Over the years, Natasha has demonstrated versatility in a number of different substantive areas of law and a consistent willingness to dig into the facts and controlling authorities in order to arrive at an argument or a result well grounded in precedent and principles. She is respectful of opposing viewpoints and thoughtful in her analysis – traits that will serve her well if she is confirmed to the Bench.

We are happy to offer our support for Natasha’s nomination and believe that her intellect and professionalism will make her an able addition to the Bench.

Respectfully,

Steve Brody
Brandilyn Dumas
Robert Fram
John Gleeson
Adam Harris
Corrine A. Irish
Stephen M. Juris

George H. Kendall
Jeffrey I.D. Lewis
Neil R. Lieberman
Janice Mac Avoy
Mary Beth Maloney
Demian Alexander Ordway
Tafadzwa Pasipanodya

Katrina Robson
Joshua D. Roth
Reggie Schafer
Peter L. Simmons
Nana Wilberforce