

July 22, 2021

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

Re: Nomination of Toby Heytens as Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We write to state our enthusiastic support for Toby Heytens's nomination to a seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. We are all current or former leaders and volunteers for the American Mock Trial Association, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that promotes legal education to college students. We know Toby as a colleague on the AMTA board of directors, frequent competition host, and volunteer coach for the University of Virginia. Collectively, the people signing this letter include Republicans, Democrats, conservatives, liberals, and libertarians from California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Wisconsin. Though we frequently disagree about many issues, and many of us coach rival teams, we are unanimous in support of Toby's nomination and confirmation.

You already know Toby's distinguished legal career. You may be less familiar with the decade-plus he has volunteered toward legal education through his involvement with collegiate mock trial. By serving on the AMTA board of directors since 2010, Toby has helped create opportunities for more than 25,000 college students to learn the work, and develop the skills, of lawyers. By hosting more than 20 mock trial competitions over the last 15 years, Toby has created opportunities for more than 3,000 college students to perform trial simulations and receive feedback from sitting judges and practicing lawyers. And by coaching the University of Virginia team since 2006, Toby has personally taught and mentored more than 100 college students, many of whom have become lawyers, including prosecutors, criminal defense lawyers, law firm partners, and federal clerks (to judges appointed by presidents of both parties).

Toby is impartial, thoughtful, and hardworking. The American Mock Trial Association has four major awards for individuals: an All-American Award, given to a fraction of the top 1% of college student competitors; the W. Ward Reynoldson Award, given to the coaches of teams that qualify for the national championship trial; the Neal Smith Award, given to leaders who further AMTA's education mission; and the Coaches Hall of Fame Award, given to coaches whose teams achieve sustained success in an ethical and collegial manner. In the organization's 36-year history, Toby is one of the few people awarded all four honors.

We urge the Senate to confirm Toby to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. Thank you for your consideration. We¹ are available to provide more information or answer questions.

Sincerely,

David Ben-Merre
Associate Professor
SUNY--Buffalo State College

Justin Bernstein
Director of Trial Advocacy
UCLA School of Law

Alex Bluebond
Senior Associate
Vinson & Elkins LLP

David D. Cross
Chair of Antitrust Litigation Practice
Morrison & Foerster LLP

Michael A. D'Ippolito III, Esq.
Associate
Adler Pollock & Sheehan P.C.

Adam Detsky
Attorney
American Mock Trial Association

Tammy Doss
AMTA Program Coordinator
American Mock Trial Association

Anna Eldridge
Director of Mock Trial and Pre-Law Advising
Rhodes College

Daniel Elliott
Assistant Mock Trial Coach
Rhodes College

Samantha M. Feak
Attorney at Law

¹ References to institutions, such as law firms and schools, are merely for identification purposes and do not constitute endorsements.

Mello and Pickering, LLP

Gonzalo Freixes
Associate Dean and Adjunct Professor
UCLA Anderson School of Management

Michael J. Gelfand, Esq.
Associate
Westerman Ball Ederer Miller Zucker & Sharfstein, LLP

Dr. Glen Halva-Neubauer
Professor
Furman University

Daniel Herron
Professor
Western Carolina University

Andy Hogan
Mock Trial Head Coach
Xavier University

Samuel Jahangir
Associate
Jenner & Block LLP

Susan H. Johnson
Forensics Program Director
Patrick Henry College

Grant W. Keener
Interim Assistant Dean for Admissions
University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law

Barry R. Langford
Associate Professor of Criminal Justice Administration
Columbia College

DeLois T. Leapheart
Professor & Director of Mock Trial Program
Northwood University (Midland, MI)

Joshua Leckrone
Head Coach
University of Cincinnati Mock Trial

Sonali Mehta
Coach
Duke Mock Trial

Diane Michalak
Assistant State's Attorney
DuPage County State's Attorney's Office

Angela Minor Attorney & Assoc.
Prof at Howard University School of Communications
American Mock Trial Association, Board Member

Mary Lynn Neuhaus
Attorney
Neuhaus Mediation Services

Phil Pasquarello
Trial Competition Director
Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law

Marcus Pohlmann
Professor Emeritus
Rhodes College

Michael C. Polovich
Associate
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius

Eric Roytman
Head Coach
Duke Mock Trial

Thom Scher
Board of Directors
American Mock Trial Association

Elizabeth Smiley
Associate
Baron & Budd, P.C.

Jacinth Sohi
Director of Member Experience
Found

Michael H. Walsh
Adjunct Professor, Mock Trial and Moot Court Coach

Loyola University Chicago

William Warihay
Attorney and Lecturer
Hasner Law and Georgia Institute of Technology

Nathaniel Warner
Head Coach, Columbia University Mock Trial
Columbia University Mock Trial

Kyle T. West
Senior Associate
Vinson & Elkins LLP

Elise H. Wilson
Associate Attorney
Strawinski & Stout

Johnathan Woodward
President-Elect
American Mock Trial Association

Amelia Yeomelakis
Staff Attorney
The Legal Aid Society

Sara Zeigler
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Eastern Kentucky University