

October 5, 2022

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Re: Nomination of Todd E. Edelman to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia**

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We, the undersigned, are law professors and scholars from academic institutions throughout the country. We write in support of D.C. Superior Court Judge Todd E. Edelman's nomination to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Judge Edelman's exceptional intellect, character, and temperament will serve him well on the United States District Court. Moreover, his record of service as an attorney and as a judge clearly demonstrates his commitment to upholding the highest principles of fairness, integrity, and equal justice under law.

Judge Edelman's sheer brilliance, combined with his depth and breadth of experience in the law, make him perfectly suited for a judgeship on the United States District Court. After graduating *cum laude* from both Yale College and New York University School of Law, Judge Edelman clerked for the Honorable William B. Bryant on the very court to which he has been nominated. From the beginning, Judge Edelman was unwavering in his intention to use his talents to serve the public. As a law student, Judge Edelman was selected as an NYU Root-Tilden Scholar, earning a spot in a competitive program that selects scholars based on their commitment to public service, academic excellence, and potential for leadership.

In fact, Judge Edelman chose to begin his career by fulfilling one of the most demanding and noble mandates of our Constitution: to defend liberty by providing effective assistance of counsel to indigent persons accused of crimes. Judge Edelman first served as a Prettyman Fellow at the Georgetown University Law Center, where he honed his skills as an indigent defense attorney while teaching law students legal, ethical, and professional skills. He then moved to the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS), one of the nation's preeminent public defense organizations. During his time at PDS, Judge Edelman helped to realize the promise of equal justice under law by providing the same quality and caliber of legal services to those unable to afford counsel as is available to those able to pay top dollar. His knowledge of the intricacies of litigation, combined with his strong professional foundation in advancing the principles of liberty and equal justice, will serve him well should he become a District Court judge.

Judge Edelman's experience extends well beyond criminal law. In 2005, Judge Edelman joined the firm of Bredhoff & Kaiser P.L.L.C., gaining expertise in precisely the kind of complex litigation matters handled in United States District Courts. Five years later, he was confirmed as an Associate Judge for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, where Judge Edelman has presided over extensive civil and criminal dockets, handling a wide range of matters including complex consumer protection and torts cases, employment and labor law disputes, and nuanced questions of constitutional and criminal law. Judge Edelman has earned the admiration of litigants from both sides of the aisle for his incisive and thoughtful decisionmaking, commitment to the fair administration of justice, respectful demeanor, and efficient courtroom management. Judge Edelman's clear and well-reasoned opinions have proven influential well beyond the Superior Court.

Meaningfully, Judge Edelman has also assumed both formal and informal roles as a mentor, guide, and community leader throughout his career. At PDS, Judge Edelman first was awarded the honor of Chief of the Serious Felony Section, and then promoted to the position of Training Director, which is reserved for the most distinguished, knowledgeable, and experienced PDS attorneys. As Training Director, Judge Edelman was responsible for upholding PDS's longstanding tradition of excellence by shaping each new class of lawyers. Countless PDS lawyers credit Judge Edelman for having inspired and taught them throughout their careers, whether by walking them through a novel legal issue, advising on a difficult plea negotiation, or helping manage a complex trial. Judge Edelman's talent and dedication to mentoring young attorneys led Georgetown Law Center to welcome him back to teaching as an adjunct and then clinical faculty member, and he continued to teach even after his appointment to the Superior Court bench, winning the Charles Fahy Distinguished Adjunct Professor Award in 2022. Judge Edelman also serves on the faculty of the Harvard Law School Trial Advocacy Clinic, and frequently volunteers his time as a guest lecturer and trainer on trial practice issues. In addition, he has undertaken leadership and service roles to promote the profession, address the legal needs of the community, and advance the values of justice under law, both within the D.C. community and through national professional organizations.

As academics and educators, we are responsible for helping to shape the nation's next generation of lawyers, instilling in them the same commitment to and respect for the rule of law that Judge Edelman possesses in spades. Should Judge Edelman be confirmed to the United States District Court, his appointment will not only benefit the residents of the District of Columbia, but also our students, who will have a thoughtful, dedicated jurist to look to as an example as they begin to form their own professional identities. We respectfully urge the Committee and the full Senate to swiftly confirm Judge Edelman to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

Sincerely,

Jonathan H. Adler  
Johan Verheij Memorial Professor of Law  
Case Western Reserve University School of Law  
Cleveland, OH

Ty Alper  
Clinical Professor of Law  
U.C. Berkeley School of Law  
Berkeley, CA

Susan Bloch  
Professor of Law  
Georgetown Law Center  
Washington, DC

Johanna Bond  
Sydney and Frances Lewis Professor of Law  
Washington and Lee University School of Law  
Lexington, VA

Shelley Broderick  
Dean Emerita and Joseph L. Rauh Chair of Social Justice  
University of the District of Columbia law  
Washington, DC

Tucker Carrington  
Associate Dean for Clinical Programs & Associate Professor of Law  
University of Mississippi School of Law  
Oxford, MS

Violeta Chapin  
Clinical Professor of Law  
University of Colorado Law School  
Boulder, CO

John Copacino  
Professor  
Georgetown Law Center  
Washington, DC

Andrew Manuel Crespo  
Morris Wasserstein Public Interest Professor of Law  
Harvard Law School  
Cambridge, MA

Angela J. Davis  
Distinguished Professor of Law  
American University Washington College of Law  
Washington, DC

Kathryn Dyer

Clinical Professor  
University of Texas School of Law  
Austin, TX

Peter Edelman  
Carmark Waterhouse Professor of Law and Public Policy  
Georgetown Law Center  
Washington, DC

Deborah Epstein  
Agnes Williams Sesquicentennial Professor of Law  
Georgetown University Law Center  
Washington, DC

Matt Fraidin  
Acting Associate Dean of Academic Affairs  
Professor of Law  
University of the District of Columbia  
David A. Clarke School of Law  
Washington, DC

Andrew Ferguson  
Professor of Law  
American University Washington College of Law  
Washington, DC

Alison R Flaum  
Clinical Professor of Law  
Northwestern Pritzker School of Law  
Chicago, IL

James Forman  
J. Skelly Wright Professor of Law  
Yale Law School  
New Haven, CT

Nicole Smith Futrell  
Associate Professor of Law  
City University of New York (CUNY) School of Law  
Long Island City, NY

Charlotte Garden  
Julius E. Davis Professor of Law  
University of Minnesota Law School  
Minneapolis, MN

Aya Gruber  
Ira C. Rothgerber Professor of Constitutional Law and Criminal Justice  
University of Colorado Law School  
Boulder, CO

Martin Guggenheim  
Fiorello LaGuardia Professor of Clinical Law Emeritus  
New York University School of Law  
New York, NY

Daniel S. Harawa  
Associate Professor of Law  
Washington University in St. Louis School of Law  
St. Louis, MO

Erica Hashimoto  
Professor  
Georgetown Law Center  
Washington, DC

Maria Hawilo  
Distinguished Professor in Residence  
Loyola University Chicago School of Law  
Chicago, IL

Kristin Nicole Henning  
Blume Professor of Law  
Georgetown University Law Center  
Washington, DC

Randy Hertz  
Professor of Clinical Law  
NYU School of Law  
New York, NY

Alexis Hoag-Fordjour  
Professor  
Brooklyn Law School  
Brooklyn, NY

Paul Holland  
Associate Dean for Experiential Education and Associate Professor  
Seattle University School of Law  
Seattle, WA

David Jaros

Professor of Law  
University of Baltimore School of Law  
Baltimore, Maryland

Vida Johnson  
Associate Professor of Law  
Georgetown Law  
Washington, DC

Cynthia E. Jones  
Professor of Law  
American University Washington College of Law  
Washington, DC

J.D. King  
James P. Morefield Professor of Law  
Washington and Lee University School of Law  
Lexington, VA

Cortney E. Lollar  
Norman & Carole Harned Law & Public Policy Professor  
University of Kentucky Rosenberg College of Law  
Lexington, KY

Nancy Morawetz  
Professor of Clinical Law  
NYU School of Law  
New York, NY

Alan B. Morrison  
Associate Dean  
George Washington University Law School  
Washington, DC

Erin Murphy  
Norman Dorsen Professor of Civil Liberties  
NYU School of Law  
New York, NY

Wallace J Mlyniec  
Lupo Ricci Professor of Law  
Georgetown Law Center  
Washington, DC

Karen Pita Loo  
Clinical Professor of Law

Boston University School of Law  
Boston, MA

Michael Pinard  
Francis & Harriet Iglehart Professor of Law  
University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law  
Baltimore, MD

Jonathan Rapping  
Professor  
Atlanta's John Marshall Law School  
Atlanta, GA

Chris Roberts  
Director  
University of Texas School of Law  
Austin, TX

Jenny Roberts  
Professor of Law and Co-Director, Criminal Justice Clinic  
American University Washington College of Law  
Washington, DC

Andrea Roth  
Professor of Law  
U.C. Berkeley School of Law  
Berkeley, CA

Ann Shalleck  
Professor of Law and Carrington Shields Scholar  
American University, Washington College of Law  
Washington, DC

Alison Siegler  
Clinical Professor of Law and Founding Director of the Federal Criminal Justice Clinic  
University of Chicago Law School  
Chicago, IL

Abbe Smith  
Scott K. Ginsburg Professor of Law  
Georgetown University Law Center  
Washington, DC

Vincent Southerland  
Assistant Professor of Clinical Law  
NYU School of Law

New York, NY

Ronald S. Sullivan Jr.  
Jesse Climenko Clinical Professor of Law  
Harvard Law School  
Cambridge, MA

Kim Taylor-Thompson  
Professor of Clinical Law Emerita  
NYU School of Law  
New York, NY

Anthony C Thompson  
Professor of Clinical Law Emeritus  
NYU School of Law  
New York, NY

Robin Walker Sterling  
Mayer Brown-Robert A. Helman Clinical Professor of Law  
Northwestern Pritzker School of Law  
Chicago, IL

Kate Weisburd  
Associate Professor of Law  
George Washington Univ. School of Law  
Washington, DC