



PRESIDENT
RAKIM BROOKS

CHAIR
PAULETTE MEYER

August 25, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairman Durbin:

On behalf of the Alliance for Justice (AFJ), a national association representing 148 public interest and civil rights organizations, I write to support the confirmation of Justice Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Justice Montgomery-Reeves' credentials, including seven years of experience as a state court judge, make her an exceptional candidate to serve on the Third Circuit. A trailblazer at multiple levels of the Delaware judiciary, she was the first Black woman to serve on two of the state's highly-regarded courts — the Delaware Court of Chancery and the Delaware Supreme Court. From the outset of her career as a commercial litigation associate to her time on the bench, she has consistently demonstrated a commitment to the rule of law.

Raised in Jackson, Mississippi, Justice Montgomery-Reeves' grandmother instilled in her the importance of knowing one's rights and inspired her to pursue a career in the law. At the University of Georgia School of Law, Justice Montgomery-Reeves fell in love with corporate law and decided to immerse herself in the Delaware legal community. She clerked for Chancellor William B. Chandler III on the Delaware Court of Chancery, which has a national reputation as the premier venue for the resolution of business disputes. Then, she gained hands-on experience as a corporate litigator for two national firms, Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP in New York City and Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati PC in Wilmington, Delaware. As an associate and partner at the latter firm from 2011 to 2015, she focused on corporate governance, navigation of corporate fiduciary duties, stockholder class action litigation, derivative litigation, and complex commercial litigation. Justice Montgomery-Reeves' extensive corporate litigation experience will suit her well on the Third Circuit, which features a substantial business law docket.

As a judge, Justice Montgomery-Reeves has earned a reputation as a consensus-building jurist who is fair and considerate. From 2015 to 2019, she served as the first Black vice chancellor and second woman on the Delaware Court of Chancery. On January 3, 2020, she was sworn in as the first Black justice and third woman to ever sit on the Delaware Supreme Court. Since joining the bench, Justice Montgomery-Reeves has participated in thousands of decisions and authored more than 300 opinions. She brings a wealth of experience presiding over trials, as well as substantive expertise that will benefit the Third Circuit and a deep understanding of the appellate process, having served on Delaware's highest court for more than two years.

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Notably, while in private practice Justice Montgomery-Reeves dedicated significant time to *pro bono* work. She prepared petitions under the Violence Against Women Act and worked with the Legal Aid Society's Prisoners' Rights Project to improve conditions in New York state prisons, earning her the Legal Aid Society Award for Pro Bono Service in 2009, 2010, and 2011. Outside of the courtroom, from 2015 to 2019 she served on the Board of Directors of Mother Teresa House, Inc., which provides affordable housing and supportive services for low-income individuals with HIV/AIDS. Additionally, since 2017 she has served on the Board of the Delaware Community Foundation, a nonprofit that partners with donors to expand opportunity, advance equity, and improve the lives of all people in Delaware.

These qualities and others make Justice Montgomery-Reeves an excellent selection for the federal bench. Given her exemplary qualifications and proven track record seeking justice, the Senate should swiftly confirm Justice Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Sincerely,

Rakim H.D. Brooks

Rakim Brooks
President, Alliance for Justice