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The
Barristers' Association
of Philadelphia, Inc.

An Affiliate of the National Bar Association

Addressing Your Concerns! Serving Your Needs!

1735 Market Street, Suite A234, Philadelphia, PA 19103

www.phillybarristers.com

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chair

Committee of the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

To The Honorable Richard Durbin:

The Barristers' Association of Philadelphia, Inc. was founded in 1950 to address the needs of African- American attorneys in Philadelphia. Since then, we have been a committed catalyst for change and a voice of advocacy correcting historical injustices in this City. We have played an intricate role in elevating Black voices and addressing the needs of our community.

The American judicial system has a history littered with negation of equality and noble attempts of correction thereafter. The road for Black law students, practitioners, judges, and legal scholars is filled with obstacles presented as a result of the systemic barriers designed throughout history to prevent and discourage our inclusion in the legal profession. Organizations such as the Barristers' Association located in every major city demonstrate the existence of excellent Black attorneys in every area of practice. Yet, our courts are a poor reflection of diversity in practice. In recent years, conversations of equality and inclusion have been on the forefront of every industry. While we stand in this very moment of history, more definitive steps must be taken to put words to action and demand that representation on the bench reflect reality. In the last several months, the Barristers' has stood in support of the diversity efforts made by our President. We have seen the confirmation of The Honorable Ketanji Brown Jackson, the first Black woman to serve on our nation's highest court. However, historical milestones such as that must be made norms in our justice system both locally and federally.

To that end, the Barristers' applaud President Biden's recent nomination of the highly qualified Gregory B. Williams, Esq. to the District Court of Delaware. Prior to his legal career, Mr. Williams served our country in the United States Army Reserves for over five years. During that time, he received two Bachelor's Degrees from Millersville University. Upon completion of his service, Mr. Williams attended Villanova University where he received his Juris Doctorate. Mr. Williams went on to join Fox Rothschild LLP where he is now a partner and has built a successful career in commercial litigation and intellectual property. Due to his dedicated practice, he was recently selected to serve as special master to the Delaware District Court. Mr. Williams has been selected to serve the Court in many other capacities. He has chaired the Delaware's Judicial Nominating Commission for former Governor Jack Markell, as well as the United States Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel. In addition to his dynamic career, Mr. Williams served as President of the Barristers' Association of Philadelphia at the earlier stages of his career when he practiced in our city. He led our organization to higher heights while advocating

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for Black attorneys city wide. After relocating his practice to Delaware, Mr. Williams continued his service to the profession by serving as President of the Delaware State Bar Association.

The Barristers' Association of Philadelphia, Inc. unequivocally supports the nomination of Gregory B. Williams, Esq. His confirmation will not only serve as a continued step towards adequate representation on the bench, but also as recognition of his stellar career.

Respectfully,

Adara L. Combs, Esq.

President

The Barristers' Association of Philadelphia