



National Bar Association
BEN F. JONES CHAPTER
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For Immediate Release

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The Ben F. Jones Chapter of the National Bar Association Supports President Biden's Decision to Appoint Andre Mathis as the Next Judge for the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals

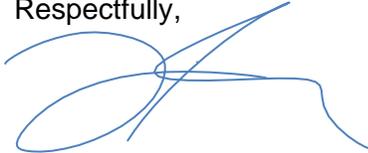
We are a diverse nation. Our citizens possess a colorful array of different political opinions, have varying religious beliefs, hail from a combination of racial and ethnic backgrounds, national origins, family histories, sexual orientations, and have unique outlooks on all manners of issues and topics. Though they may not have fully appreciated the implications of their words at the time, our Founding Fathers wrote that the idea that "all men are created equal" was a "self-evident" "Truth." They also wisely created the federal judiciary to interpret federal laws, many of which currently deal with the bedrock principles of who we are—our civil rights with regard to politics, religion, racial disparity and discrimination, national origin and immigration, sexual orientation, and on and on. So how can the nation's federal courts, which are supposed to equitably interpret the laws that cut to the deepest parts of this varied citizenry, still be more than seventy percent (70%) White? It is time to refocus efforts to diversify the federal bench so that the judiciary is more reflective of the citizens it serves, and to better ensure that a variety of perspectives are being considered when interpreting laws. With these ideals in mind, the Ben F. Jones Chapter of the National Bar Association is proud to endorse the federal judicial appointment of someone who has proven his dedication to promoting diversity within the field of law: Attorney Andre Mathis.

Attorney Mathis is one of Memphis's own, having obtained both his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Memphis. He is also an experienced litigator, having spent the last fourteen years defending governmental and commercial entities in federal and state courts when multi-million-dollar lawsuits were brought against them. His willingness to serve in leadership roles are evident in that he has been on the board of directors for the Memphis Bar Association, the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law Alumni Association, the Downtown Porter Boys & Girls Club, and the Ben F. Jones Chapter of the National Bar Association, for which he is also a past president. His accolades are also plenty. Attorney Mathis has been named among the Best Lawyers in America and Super Lawyers Mid-South Rising Stars, a fellow with the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity,

Outstanding Associate with the American Inn of Court – Leo Bearman, Sr. Chapter, Alumnus of the Year with Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Memphis, Top 40 Under 40 with Memphis Business Journal, and Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law. Attorney Andre Mathis is truly among the best candidates, of any race, that could be considered for judicial appointment to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, but his candidacy is particularly strong because he has a proven track record of promoting and supporting diversity within the profession.

The Ben F. Jones Chapter of the National Bar Association recognizes that this country is at a crossroads as more and more citizens are realizing that the “post-racial America” many had hoped we had achieved more than a decade ago had been a façade. The past year has been bitter proof that racial disparities—reflecting deep systemic flaws in healthcare, criminal justice, wealth attainment, employment, and fundamental civil rights—are alive and well. Though plenty of disparities exist, and have always existed, along racial lines, inequity has also widened with regard to sex and women’s rights, economic opportunity and status, and national origin, among many other ways as well. Now, more than ever, it is crucial that patriots who are racially diverse, and who appreciate that racial disparities threaten the well-being of our nation be appointed to the federal bench. Attorney Mathis has dedicated his life to exceling within the legal field, and the Ben F. Jones Chapter of the National Bar Association strongly believes that he will serve the federal judiciary with integrity and with an outlook reflective of the diversity he would bring to the bench.

Respectfully,



Quinton E. Thompson
President, Ben F. Jones Chapter of the National Bar Association