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The Honorable Dick Durbin, Chair  
U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassely  
U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee  
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Re: Magistrate Judge Dana M. Douglas**

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassely:

I had the great privilege of serving as the 25<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court until my retirement in December, 2020. I am writing to express my full support of the nomination of Magistrate Judge Dana M. Douglas who has been nominated to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeal for the Fifth Circuit.

I came to know Dana when she was young girl and I was elected a Civil trial Judge in 1984. Her mother, Ms. Ida Woodfork, worked at the same court for the Civil Sheriff and Dana would often come to the Court to visit. Since that time, I have had the opportunity to observe and interact with Dana in many different capacities. Dana comes from a family rooted in service and committed to the rule of law and she has that same commitment. Her uncle, Warren Woodfork, served the City of New Orleans as the first black Superintendent of the New Orleans Police Department. Many of the members of her extended family are in law enforcement.

As a shareholder at the Liskow & Lewis law firm, her practice focused on energy, products liability and intellectual property litigation. She was well respected among her peers as a practicing attorney for her scholarship and professionalism. As a practicing attorney, her commitment to the profession was unwavering and she gave her time to ensure that lawyers in the community were engaged outside of the courtroom. She has led the New Orleans Bar Association and the Louis A Martinet Society and many other professional organizations. Her service to the community has been formally recognized by the Louisiana State Bar Association and the Federal Bar Association. She has been honored by her Alma Mater, Loyola University School of Law.

Since her appointment as a Magistrate Judge of the Eastern District of Louisiana she has developed a reputation among her peers and with lawyers for her work ethic, her docket management skills and her respect for the litigants who appear before her. She unapologetically treats everyone with dignity and respect. Magistrate Judge Douglas is even tempered and has the ideal judicial temperament to serve as an appellate court judge. Her commitment to the rule of law is steadfast.

I am confident that Dana has the requisite experience and knowledge to serve as an appellate judge. She would be an excellent addition to the court and I recommend her without reservation. I ask that you act favorably on the nomination of Magistrate Judge Dana M. Douglas. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Chief Justice Bernette J. Johnson (Ret.)