

August 30, 2022

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

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

Re: Nomination of Kai Scott to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We are members of the Philadelphia legal community who serve or have served as public defenders and criminal defense attorneys writing to support the confirmation of Kai Scott as a judge on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Although not all of us know Judge Scott personally, we nonetheless fully support her nomination as her reputation for fairness, integrity, and deep intelligence make her an ideal jurist and we know she will serve our community with distinction. We thank President Joe Biden for putting forth Judge Scott's nomination and the Committee and full Senate for engaging in a prompt review.

Many of us have known Judge Scott since she began her active career as a public defender with the Defender Association of Philadelphia. There, Judge Scott distinguished herself as a talented advocate dedicated to her clients and achieving justice. She tried thousands of bench trials for those accused of misdemeanor and felony offenses, honing her skills and knowledge of the law.

Judge Scott's prowess as a trial lawyer and dogged ability to represent clients in front of juries earned her a position with the Federal Community Defender Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. As a federal defender, Judge Scott learned the intricacies of federal litigation directly and came to understand the difficulties of those facing accusations supported by the weight of the federal government. Recognizing her depth of knowledge of the law and ability to work with new lawyers, Judge Scott was promoted to Chief of the Trial Unit for the Community Defender Office. A fierce advocate throughout her trial career she nonetheless conducted herself with honesty and integrity, earning the respect of even the most seasoned prosecutors and judges.

Beyond her technical and practical experience, Judge Scott has the temperament and character to serve as a federal judge. As a candidate for her current position, Judge Scott was one of three candidates (out of 43) to earn the Philadelphia Bar Association's highest rating of "Highly Recommended" based on her record and the Association's Selection Committee's interviews of lawyers and judges with first-hand knowledge of her work. She continues to live up to that distinction from the bench, serving her community as a fair and dedicated jurist.

Judge Scott's term on the bench has not been limited to presiding over trials. She was the Supervising Judge for the Thirtieth Philadelphia Investigating Grand Jury, overseeing the grand jury process and ensuring the integrity of confidential investigations. Recognizing the need for assistance to those who experience collateral consequences of the criminal justice system, Judge Scott has presided over MENTOR court. This unique program helps those who have been released from a term of imprisonment or are serving probation to reintegrate safely into their communities.

Judge Scott's commitment to the legal system goes beyond her service as a judge. She takes seriously the need for education for those entering and currently in the legal system. She helps provide educational programs for her fellow jurists as Co-Chair of the Education Committee for the First Judicial District and was a liaison with the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative program promoting creative learning opportunities for judges nationwide and internationally. Judge Scott is a frequent and sought-after lecturer in continuing legal education programs and has taught with the Pennsylvania Bar Association, several Federal Public Defender Offices, and the Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General. For several years, Judge Scott has held an adjunct faculty position at the Temple University Beasley School of Law teaching both introductory and advanced trial advocacy preparing future trial lawyers on issues of skill, ethics, and professional responsibility.

Our community needs judges with Judge Scott's intellect, experience, and integrity. Her experience representing the most vulnerable in our society gives her an outlook that will serve the entire bench broadening the range of perspectives and experience. As a Black woman, she would bring needed racial diversity, helping to create a judiciary that looks more like the community it serves.

Judge Scott would be a tremendous addition to the federal bench, and we wholeheartedly support her nomination. We thank you for your work and urge the prompt consideration of Judge Scott's nomination and her swift confirmation to the bench.

Very truly yours,*

Jonathan Altschuler
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** All signatories have signed in their personal capacities.*