

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

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

The undersigned have served as Connecticut Assistant State's Attorneys, and several have worked in a supervisory capacity. All of us have had the privilege of working with Judge Omar Williams in various trial level courts in Connecticut. We are unanimous in our strong support of his appointment as a United States District Court Judge for the District of Connecticut.

There is a common belief that a judge reflects the values that she or he learned as a practicing attorney. For instance, some would expect that a former Public Defender would tend to be overly sympathetic to the defense or hyper technical when ruling on Fourth Amendment issues. Judge Williams' performance on the bench belies these beliefs.

Judge Williams can always be counted upon to carefully listen to arguments from both sides, do his own legal research, and then render a decision that is fair and well supported by the law. In chambers conferences he is courteous, takes scrupulous notes and asks penetrating questions of both sides. On the bench he is clear, cogent and decisive. He speaks plainly and makes himself understood to everyone in his court.

Judge Williams's findings are thoughtful and well received. His decisions reflect his own evaluation process and not those of the prosecution or defense. Indeed, his sentences from time to time are more severe than those recommended by the State. On the other hand, he is willing to take a chance on a defendant if he believes that the facts of the case and the defendant's attitude warrant leniency.

On the bench, Judge Williams has an excellent demeanor. He is businesslike and efficient but remains approachable and courteous. He does not have to prove that he is the smartest person in the room because that is a quality which he routinely demonstrates through his decisions. Judge Williams has a great sense of humor and is highly regarded by the courtroom staff.

In conclusion, Judge Omar Williams is a highly gifted jurist and we strongly urge you to confirm his appointment to the bench in the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carl R. Ajello III
Anthony Bochiocchio
Sarah W. Bowman
Rafael I. Bustamante
Stephen M. Carney
Robert Diaz
Mirella Giambalvo
Jesse Giddings
Michael E. Kennedy
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