

June 19, 2022

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chair
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. Senate
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

We are current or former prosecutors and public defenders writing in support of Rachel Bloomekatz's confirmation to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. As Ohioans practicing in the Sixth Circuit, we have benefited from Rachel's generosity and talents as a colleague and look forward to litigating before her on the federal bench.

You are no doubt well aware of Rachel's impressive education and experience. But for those who have had the pleasure of interacting with her personally, it is her generosity, intellectual curiosity, and humility that stands out. Despite a well-deserved reputation as an elite lawyer, Rachel has never rested on her laurels. She works tirelessly to enhance the legal profession, through her own thoughtful and thorough advocacy as well as her educational and mentoring work with law students and lawyers. She goes above and beyond her responsibilities as a law professor by connecting students with area practitioners for advice and guidance. She also hosts voluntary bonus lectures for her Federal Court students to ensure they have a chance to learn about specialized disciplines, like habeas corpus, that fall outside the course curriculum. And as an executive board member of the Southern District of Ohio's Federal Bar Association, Rachel has coordinated networking and programming for our community, including most recently arranging a panel with fellow former clerks of Justice Breyer to reflect on his legacy as he leaves the Court.

Drawing on her work as an assistant attorney general and with victims of crimes in civil actions, as well as her pro bono efforts in support of criminal defendants,

Rachel will be well positioned to understand both the defense and prosecutorial perspectives in the cases that come before her. Rachel has proven herself a trustworthy advocate through her work to ensure fidelity to the Constitution in both state and federal cases, and we are confident that no matter her decision, parties practicing before her will appreciate the dignity and respect she affords to the government and individuals alike.

Rachel represents everything a litigant wants in a decisionmaker: impeccable credentials, meaningful experience, brilliant intellect, outstanding work ethic, unquestionable integrity, patient disposition, and judicial temperament. We urge her confirmation.

Sincerely,¹

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