



March 18, 2023

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
Sarah_Bauer@judiciary-dem.senate.gov

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
Brendan_Chestnut@judiciary-rep.senate.gov

Re: Letter in Support of Nomination of Magistrate Judge Kato Crews for U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado

Sent via email to: Sarah_Bauer@judiciary-dem.senate.gov; Brendan_Chestnut@judiciary-rep.senate.gov

Dear Senators Durbin and Graham:

The Colorado Women's Bar Association (CWBA) is one of the largest and most respected women's bar associations in the country. It is the only bar association in Colorado that conducts confidential due diligence on publicly announced judicial candidates before endorsing or otherwise supporting a candidate.

The CWBA's mission is to advance women as leaders in the law and to promote gender equity. We work to promote the highest standards of the legal profession and to advance justice. For these reasons, we are contacting you regarding President Biden's nomination of Magistrate Judge Kato Crews for a vacancy in the United States District Court for the District of Colorado. After reviewing the due diligence, the CWBA's Executive Committee voted to endorse Magistrate Judge Crews earlier in the appointment process. We now strongly support his nomination.

The due diligence demonstrates that Judge Crews will excel as an Article III judge. Attorneys, judges, and mediators praised Judge Crews for his legal acumen, diligence, preparedness, fairness, integrity, and calm, respectful demeanor. Commenters noted the many ways Judge Crews has contributed to the legal community and to the pursuit of justice. Most recently, Judge Crews founded the District of Colorado's Federal Limited Appearance Program with the Colorado Bar Association. Additionally, Judge Crews mentors law students and young attorneys and advises attorneys—particularly women and persons of color—who want to become judges. As an example, Judge Crews was a panelist for the CWBA's "Storming the Bench" program to encourage more women to apply for judgeships in Colorado.

All commenters ranked Magistrate Judge Crews extremely high in the areas of thoughtfulness, judicial temperament, legal ability, experience, and commitment to service. They noted the importance of community to Judge Crews. If appointed, Magistrate Judge Crews would be only



the third African American to serve as an Article III Judge in the 147-year-old District of Colorado, after Hon. Wiley Y. Daniel (appointed in 1995) and Hon. Raymond P. Moore (appointed in 2013). Judge Moore is currently the only African American judge on the District of Colorado bench. A court that lacks diversity cannot instill confidence in all those who appear before it that they will be heard and that justice will be served.

For these reasons, the CWBA strongly supports the nomination of Magistrate Judge Kato Crews and requests that he be appointed to the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado. Thank you for your consideration and for allowing the CWBA to participate in this important process.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Starnella

Kathryn Starnella
2022-23 CWBA President

cc: Senator John Hickenlooper, Senator Michael Bennet