

LETTER OF SUPPORT

Nominee Kevin Ritz



Supervisory Special Agent Tracey Harris Branch (retired)

The Honorable Dick Durbin
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The Honorable Lindsey Graham
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The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
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Please accept this letter of support for Mr. Kevin Ritz who is a current nominee for Judge of the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. I am honored to share my experience with Mr. Ritz whom I met over 20 years ago while he worked as Assistant United States Attorney, Western District of Tennessee. At that time, I was employed as a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation specifically assigned to address Civil Rights and Child Exploitation violations in the district. In that these violations were sensitive and garnered widespread public sentiment, I found Mr. Ritz to be extremely proficient with legal statutes, professional with the defense attorney community, and incredibly empathetic to the victims impacted by the crimes.

One Child Sex Trafficking investigation involved a 12-year-old Mexican girl who was savagely violated by hundreds of men. This case was the first International Trafficking case worked in the Western District of Tennessee. I vividly recall Mr. Ritz's dedication to any effort required to bring justice to the victim and her family. This international investigation also spanned across several states as the victim was sold from state to state. I had routine touchpoints with Mr. Ritz and realized even more the passion and tenacity he possessed to champion the victim's cause and ensure her voice was heard.

During the 20-year period of acquaintance with Mr. Ritz, I have never observed him out of character or unprofessional. Rather, he was always poised, pleasant, and extremely dedicated to his work. It was common for him to arrive at the office far in advance of anyone else and he would also stay late many times. I found him to be approachable by both internal peers and those of us in other agencies.

It is well known in the Western District of Tennessee as well as other Districts working in tandem with the United States Attorney's Office that Mr. Ritz is known for building long lasting partnerships. Furthermore, since becoming the United States Attorney, Mr. Ritz has continued to extensively build partnerships with local, state, and federal entities. He avails himself to civic and community events and motivates his team to do the same. He routinely participates in agency tabletop discussions and has remained open to opposing views.

Mr. Ritz exemplifies all the core characteristics embodied by the esteemed members of the Federal Judiciary. He consistently demonstrates integrity and impartiality in all endeavors. His dedication and motivation for fairness and equality within the justice system are unmatched. I am honored to provide this letter in support of his nomination.

Tracey Harris Branch, Supervisory Special Agent (retired)


Federal Bureau of Investigation