



September 10, 2024

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Chair  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Graham,

It is without reservation that I recommend Tiffany Johnson for appointment to the United States District Court of the Northern District of Georgia.

As the Executive Director of the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation (AVLF), and with seventeen years working in this legal community, I interact extensively with the courts and hundreds of attorneys annually. It is from this vantage point that I have had the opportunity to work with Ms. Johnson and observe her professionalism, legal acumen, high ethical standards, and her compassion for both her colleagues and the community we serve.

While, to my mind, Ms. Johnson best distinguishes herself through her commitment to service, there is no question she has the intellectual firepower that this position demands. Her writing is exceptional, her reasoning sharp. Best of all, she has the ability to deploy all of those skills in a way that is still clear and accessible.

Beyond getting to witness great lawyering, I have the good fortune to see the best of our profession and the difference we can make in our communities. It is with this perspective and experience that I see how Ms. Johnson will positively contribute to – and be an exemplary member of – our profession from the bench. I first met Ms. Johnson several years ago when I more directly managed AVLF's legal clinics that serve low-income tenants and survivors of intimate partner abuse. Ms. Johnson instantly became one of our most prolific volunteers. She took on cases without hesitation, gaining litigation experience and helping deliver a measure of justice to those who would otherwise stand alone. She brought to the work a rare level of understanding of the challenging realities of so many of our clients' lives. She possessed an unwavering commitment to providing our pro bono clients with the same quality of lawyering she gave to her highest paying clients.

Critical, I believe, to the dispensing of justice in a manner that builds respect for the rule of law, Ms. Johnson is also simply likable. She is relatable and down-to-earth. People leave a conversation with Tiffany feeling heard and that she has a genuine interest in what they had to say. I would want to appear before her regardless of how she ruled in my case. Having clerked in a federal district court many years ago, I appreciate the difference that can make for the reputation of the court and the acceptance of the justice dispensed therein. Running an agency that too often must explain to potential litigants that the law is simply not in their favor, I know just how critical the compassionate delivery of that news can be to the confidence in our system. Ms. Johnson would be a credit to the bench in this way as well.

During her time working with AVLF, Ms. Johnson demonstrated the intellect, compassion, and professionalism that make her precisely the sort of jurist we want on the bench. If you select Ms. Johnson for this position, I have no doubt she will regularly show you the same, and you will have no regrets about your decision.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions about her candidacy. Having worked with Ms. Johnson, both the programs we run and my faith in our generation of lawyers is stronger; it would be my pleasure to discuss her candidacy further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Lucas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michael Lucas  
Executive Director