

December 6, 2023

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Nomination of Hon. Cristal Brisco to the United District Court for the Northern  
District of Indiana

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

We wholeheartedly support the nomination of Hon. Cristal Brisco to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana. We have each known Cristal for more than 16 years, starting when she joined us as a colleague in the South Bend, Indiana office of Barnes & Thornburg LLP. We have also had the opportunity to work with her as a client and appear before her as a judge. Judge Brisco's range of legal experience, intelligence, temperament and commitment to service are characteristics that make her qualified to serve as a United States District Court Judge.

We worked directly with Cristal for six years when she was an attorney in the litigation and labor and employment departments in our South Bend office. As an attorney, Cristal had strong litigation skills. Her legal research and analyses were thorough, and her writing was concise and persuasive. We relied on her and trusted her judgment. Our experience with Cristal as a lawyer showed us that she has the intelligence, legal skills, and broad experience that a judge presiding over a docket that includes civil litigation needs.

We also had the opportunity to work with Cristal as a client, both when she was Corporation Counsel for the City of South Bend, and when she took the position as the first General Counsel of Saint Mary's College. These positions exposed Cristal to an even broader range of legal issues. They also gave her the inside perspective of how legal issues affect real people and institutions, and how to implement processes to comply with rules and regulations. These are attributes that good judges have.

Judge Brisco's broad range of legal experiences have been an asset to her, first as a St. Joseph County Circuit Court Magistrate, and currently as a St. Joseph County Superior Court Judge. Her intelligence and thorough preparation are evident to those of us who have appeared before her. She has shown that she is a quick study on new legal issues. Her appointment to Commercial Court for St. Joseph County demonstrates that she has the aptitude for complex

commercial litigation. We know how Judge Brisco will preside as a U.S. District Court Judge because we already know how she presides as a St. Joseph Superior Court Judge.

Judge Brisco's temperament is one of her strongest assets. In our experiences, she has always treated everyone—her coworkers, opposing counsel, the opposing party, and litigants and attorneys who appear before her as a judge—with respect. She has confidence in her positions, but seeks out, listens to, and considers others with different perspectives. When a judge makes a decision, both parties cannot win. It is important that the party that did not prevail feels that the judge listened, fairly considered its position, and treated it with respect. Judge Brisco has that skill.

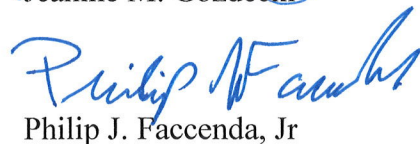
As long as we have known Judge Brisco, it has been clear that she is guided by a purpose to use her talents to serve her different communities. She has been involved with her alma maters, the University of Notre Dame and Valparaiso University, including their student organizations. She has worked with the CLEO Program for law students in Indiana. She served as a merit selection committee member for the Northern District of Indiana, and many other committees and task forces, including those related to improving the judiciary system.

The Hon. Cristal Brisco has the experience, qualification, and character to be an excellent United States District Court judge. She will serve the citizens of the Northern District of Indiana and the legal profession well.

Sincerely,



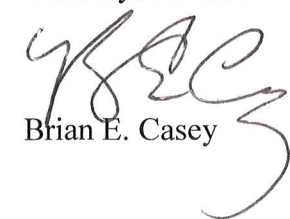
Jeanine M. Gozdecki



Philip J. Faccenda, Jr



Timothy J. Maher



Brian E. Casey



Joseph R. Fullenkamp



George E. Horn, Jr



Janilyn Brouwer Daub