

March 15, 2024

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Re: Letter from Brooklyn Law School Alumni in Support of Sparkle Sooknanan – United States District Court for the District of Columbia

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

We are a group of Brooklyn Law School (“Brooklyn”) alumni who had the honor of attending law school with Sparkle Sooknanan. During our time at Brooklyn, each of us came to know Sparkle very well as a colleague and a friend, and many of us participated alongside her as members of the *Brooklyn Law Review* or the Brooklyn Law School Moot Court Honor Society.

We write to express our unequivocal support for Sparkle’s nomination to serve as a District Judge on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Sparkle’s brilliance, steadfast commitment to the rule of law, and her honesty and character make her uniquely qualified for this role. We urge you, the other Committee members, and other members of the Senate to confirm Sparkle’s nomination swiftly and unanimously.

During her time at Brooklyn, Sparkle was known not only for her exceptional legal acumen, but also for her outstanding work ethic and unwavering dedication to her academic responsibilities, including those required by her service as a member and leader on the *Brooklyn Law Review* and the Moot Court Honor Society. At Brooklyn, like most law schools, law review and moot court membership was highly selective, intellectually challenging, and extremely time- intensive. Not surprisingly, Sparkle meaningfully contributed to both activities, earning top recognition for outstanding appellate advocacy at the prestigious New York City Bar National Moot Court Competition, publishing a law review note, and rising to become the President of the Moot Court Honor Society and Executive Articles Editor of the *Brooklyn Law Review*.

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Sparkle also excelled in her coursework and academic activities, earning recognition for excellence in the study of corporate law, bankruptcy, and property, and working as a research assistant for a well-respected Brooklyn professor; and finally, graduating *summa cum laude* with a 4.032 GPA.

Even more notable than these impressive academic achievements, is the fact that they were achieved against an extraordinary and truly inspiring backdrop. Sparkle, who at the time had recently immigrated to this country and was the first in her family to attain higher education, attended law school as an evening student, completing her coursework over the course of four years and taking classes at night after spending her days managing the responsibilities of a fulltime corporate employee.

Despite the incredible demands on her time, Sparkle was always known for her warmth and generosity of spirit, and she purposefully forged friendships and relationships that endure to this day. As a leader among her peers, Sparkle was often tasked with problem-solving and consensus-building and could always be counted on to make a fair and well-reasoned decision. Sparkle was universally admired not just for her intellect and rigor, but above all for her humility, grace and unwavering ethical compass. We know that Sparkle will undoubtedly bring these same traits to bear as a United States District Judge, and as such, be an exceptional addition to the United States District Court bench.

We have all watched with enthusiasm as Sparkle's legal career has excelled in the years since graduation. Following her service as a law clerk in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and then the U.S. Supreme Court, Sparkle then went to private practice at the highest level where she argued motions and appeals before federal and state appellate and trial courts, before returning to public service as an attorney at the United States Department of Justice.

While the signatories of this letter represent a wide variety of legal professionals who practice in many different areas of law and hold varied and distinct political beliefs and affiliations, we are unanimous in our view that Sparkle's nomination to the District Court bench is the culmination of years of dedication to professional excellence and that there could not be a more well-suited and timelier candidate for the federal bench than Sparkle Sooknanan. As such, we enthusiastically urge her confirmation.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Richard J. Durbin
Hon. Lindsey Graham

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