August 28, 2023

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

Re: Captain Richard E.N. Federico, JAG Corps, U.S. Navy Nominee as Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit

The views and opinions presented in this letter are those of the author in his personal capacity and do not necessarily represent the views of Department of Defense or any of its Components, Department of the Navy, or the Judge Advocate General's Corps.

Dear Senators Durbin, Graham, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I write to provide my strongest endorsement of Captain Richard E.N. Federico's nomination to the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. I first met Captain Federico over twenty years ago when we were assigned as prosecutors for the Navy at Trial Service Office East, Norfolk, Virginia. Ever since, I have had the good fortune to serve with Captain Federico in his active duty and reserve capacity. During my twenty-years working with him, I find him to be an officer and attorney of the highest character, integrity, and professionalism.

Currently, I am the Chief Judge of the Navy-Marine Corps Trial Judiciary. As the Chief Judge, I supervise all active duty and reserve Navy and Marine Corps trial judges. In this capacity, I had the opportunity to observe Captain Federico's performance. As a trial judge, Captain Federico's temperament, judicial acumen, and dedication to the rule of law and the pursuit of justice have been beyond reproach.

Captain Federico is a model jurist who represents what is the best about the Navy and the Judge Advocate General Corps. He has dedicated his career to serve the public and our Nation. I am exceptionally proud to be his shipmate and I know, if confirmed as a Circuit Judge, he will continue to serve our Country in an exemplar manner.

Very Respectfully,

Steplen C. Reyes Captain, United States Navy