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Member, Indiana State Bar Admitted 2018
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December 5, 2023

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen 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: Judge Gretchen Suzanne Lund
Nominee to U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana***

Dear Mr. Durbin & Mr. Graham:

My name is Nolan Miller, and I am an attorney licensed in Indiana who practices primarily criminal defense and family law in Elkhart County, Indiana. I am writing you in support of Judge Gretchen S. Lund's nomination to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana, in my individual capacity and on behalf of the Goshen City Bar Association. I am the sitting President of the Goshen City Bar Association, serve as a part-time Deputy Public Defender in Elkhart County, Indiana, and also have my own law practice in Goshen, Elkhart County, Indiana.

I have known Judge Lund for approximately five (5) years in my professional capacity. I have been assigned to the Elkhart Superior Court 4, where Judge Lund presides, in my role with the Elkhart County Public Defender's Office since approximately May of 2022. I have criminal court hearings weekly with Judge Lund in my capacity as a Deputy Public Defender, and I also practice in front of her in my private capacity. I have practiced in front of her in my private capacity since I became licensed in 2018.

Judge Lund is nothing short of qualified to be on the federal bench, and there is no doubt in my mind that she will excel on the bench in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana.

My firsthand account of practicing in front of Judge Lund for the last five (5) years is that she is very intelligent, meticulous, and organized. She runs a very tight ship in Elkhart Superior Court 4. Judge Lund possesses strong analytical skills and writing abilities and is well-versed in the law in the criminal and civil matters that come before her in Elkhart Superior Court 4.

Judge Lund also has exemplary character. She is ethical and does not stray from the oath that she took when becoming judge of Elkhart Superior Court 4. She has a great reputation in the local legal community and the attorneys and litigants that enter her courtroom respect her.

Further, as an attorney who represents indigent clients with little to no resources and sometimes unimaginable circumstances and trauma, I can say with great confidence that Judge Lund also has exemplary judicial temperament. She is compassionate to individuals and their circumstances, but also holds them accountable for the matters that are within their control. She is open-minded to alternative solutions and creative problem-solving but is also firm and decisive in her decision-making. She shows courtesy and patience to everyone that enters her courtroom, and she is committed to ensuring that every attorney and litigant, regardless of his or her walk of life, is treated with courtesy and respect.

Lastly, I believe it is imperative that the Senate Judiciary Committee know of Judge Lund's role in implementing and administering the Elkhart County Problem-Solving Court ("Drug Court"). When I first started practicing law in 2018, criminal defendants with continuing substance abuse problems in Elkhart County had very few options and resources when it came to rehabilitation and achieving continued sobriety. Judge Lund was at the forefront of this issue and worked with the State and other county courts in developing and implementing a Drug Court program in Elkhart County's Superior Court 4. This program has transformed the lives of many people and given them a sense of hope that some once believed unattainable.

I have always been very impressed with and admired Judge Lund's commitment to the Drug Court program, and I have even given back to the cause by volunteering my time, without pay, to assist individuals in the Drug Court program with obtaining their driver's licenses. I believe that the Drug Court program is of great value to Elkhart County, Indiana, and I cannot say with any amount of certainty that it would exist today in its current form without Judge Lund's dedication to the cause.

Thank you for your consideration of Judge Lund for the vacancy in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana. I am certain that you will be pleased with her intelligence, professionalism, drive, and commitment to justice.

Should you have any questions or seek any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached by phone at (574) 534-3421 or email at nolan@leathermanmiller.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nolan G. Miller".

Nolan G. Miller
Attorney at Law
President, Goshen City Bar Association

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