



SCHOOL of LAW

Risa Goluboff

Dean | Arnold H. Leon Professor of Law | Professor of History

January 19, 2024

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Via email only: Sarah_Bauer@judiciary-dem.senate.gov

The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Via email only: Ryan_Giles@judiciary-rep.senate.gov

Re: Jasmine Yoon's Nomination for W.D.Va. Judicial Vacancy

Dear Senators Durbin and Graham:

I am writing to support Jasmine Yoon's nomination to the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia. Jasmine is a superlative judicial candidate who will bring her considerable intellect, experience, knowledge, and energy to the federal judiciary.

Born and raised in South Korea, Jasmine moved to the United States with her family at the age of fourteen. She attended the University of Virginia as both a Jefferson Scholar and an Echols Scholar, graduating Phi Beta Kappa and with distinction in 2003. Jasmine further distinguished herself at the University of Virginia School of Law, of which I am dean, which she attended with a Jack Kent Cooke scholarship. In addition to her excellent performance within the classroom, Jasmine was an active and generous contributor to the Law School community, including serving as co-chair of her class's graduation committee.

I first got to know Jasmine when she served as a member of the Law School Foundation's Alumni Council from 2012 to 2015. Our paths crossed again when Jasmine served as the full-time associate director of annual giving for the Law School Foundation—and then again when Jasmine served in the University Counsel's office for three years. In each of these roles, Jasmine's intelligence, good judgment, and her commitment to serving the Commonwealth's institutions and people were immediately apparent. Her advice was always clear-eyed, incisive, and thoughtful. Listening to Jasmine, you can tell that she has thought all the way through a problem before she speaks. I always knew I could rely on her during her years in the counsel's office, first as associate counsel and then as interim university counsel.

Given Jasmine’s remarkable career trajectory, it is hard to imagine someone so ideally suited for the federal judiciary. Jasmine has truly seen every side of the law—as a law clerk and accomplished federal prosecutor within the Eastern District of Virginia; as an associate at a large Washington law firm and as counsel for the Commonwealth’s flagship university; as a vice president at Capital One and a founding board member of The Fountain Fund, which provides microloans to formerly incarcerated people. Her legal expertise is, as a result, both deep and broad, encompassing both criminal and civil matters. She is as comfortable with courtroom procedure as she is with the decision-making that happens in corporate boardrooms and in university leadership offices.

In all of her work, Jasmine has shown herself to be a person of capacious intellect, energy, and character, whose dedication to her profession and to the people she serves have rightly earned accolades—including the Council of the Inspector General on Integrity and Efficiency Annual Award, a Federal Bureau of Investigation Director’s Award, and the Crowell & Moring Pro Bono Associate of the Year Award.

Jasmine represents the best of the University of Virginia School of Law and the best of our profession. If entrusted with a seat on the federal bench, I have no doubt that that she would work every day to provide fair and impartial justice to the people of the Western District of Virginia.

Jasmine first swore to uphold the Constitution in 2003, when she became a naturalized citizen of the United States. I hope that she will soon take a similar oath as the first Asian American person to serve on Virginia’s federal bench. The Western District, and indeed the nation, would benefit enormously from Jasmine’s pathbreaking service. I am pleased to lend my whole-hearted support to her nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Risa Goluboff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Risa" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Goluboff".

Risa Goluboff
Dean
Arnold H. Leon Professor of Law
Professor of History