

September 26, 2023

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

I write this letter to express my heartfelt support for the nomination of Assistant United States Attorney Micah Smith to the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii.

I have been heavily involved in the Hawaii law enforcement community for over 26 years, both as an officer with the Honolulu Police Department, and most recently in my capacity with Homeland Security Investigations, as I oversee our operations on Hawaii Island, and on the Islands of Maui and Kauai. I first met Micah over four years ago when I first moved back to Hawaii after a military deployment followed by a two-year stint in our Washington DC Headquarters. I was introduced to Micah by a work colleague who described him as someone I would instantly get along with, as we both shared the same work ethic and level of commitment to our respective professions. After leaving his office following a three-hour introductory meeting, I immediately realized that Micah not only was an impressive attorney, but a quality human being.

Since that initial meeting, Micah and I have spoken about a variety of issues on at least a weekly basis. He would always be my first call when I wanted to present a hypothetical situation or scenario pertaining to an investigation or a proposed course of action. Despite Micah being quite possibly the busiest and most sought-after attorney in the office, he would always carve out time to return my call and listen carefully to the set of facts presented to him before offering any advice or suggestions. Micah would do careful legal research and offer me several proposed solutions and/or ideas as investigations would progress. I was, and still continue to be very appreciative of Micah's unique, informative, and creative perspective when it came to legal issues, application of current case law, and ethical considerations.

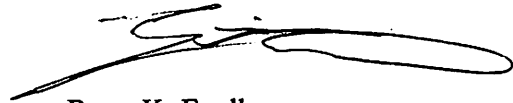
I can count numerous times when Micah would take time out of his busy schedule and see me during an unannounced office visit. We would catch up on sports, current events, the progress of investigations, and many other things. The idea that Micah would sometimes even call to run an idea by me was very humbling, in that he is such a great legal mind, and has so much to offer others, but made it a point to seek out my opinion to demonstrate his willingness to

learn other perspectives and make a decision after carefully considering things from all sides. As a Judge, those basic qualities are most impressive because he sees the world as it is. The application of the law isn't always black and white, and Micah's level of thoughtfulness and analysis, not only from a legal perspective but also a human one, will translate to fair and meaningful decisions from the bench.

Micah's dogged and tireless approach to cases also speaks volumes about how much he cares about our local community. Having grown up on the small Island of Kauai, his understanding of our unique culture, economic challenges, and other variables makes him well-positioned to apply the law in a fair and equitable manner across the board. Micah's welcoming smile, attentiveness, and compassion during our meetings and interactions speaks to his authenticity. I have been around for over 26 years in law enforcement and have spent over 30 years serving our Nation in the Army Reserve, and I know the difference between someone who is genuine and someone who is just putting on a show. Micah falls squarely in the category of someone who is genuine, even-tempered, and good hearted.

In summary, for the reasons stated above, Micah Smith would make an amazing addition to the well qualified Federal judges in the District Court for the District of Hawaii.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan K. Faulkner", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Ryan K. Faulkner