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April 22, 2024

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
Sarah_Bauer@judiciary-dem.senate.gov

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
Ryan_Giles@judiciary-rep.senate.gov

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
United States Senate
357 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Kaytlin_Lane@blackburn.senate.gov

The Honorable Bill Hagerty
United States Senate
251 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Clark_Milner@hagerty.senate.gov

**Re: Recommendation of District Judge Candidate,
Kevin Ritz, United States Attorney for
Western District of Tennessee**

Dear Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Graham, and Senators Blackburn and Hagerty,
respectfully:

I am attorney Taurus Bailey and on behalf of myself, and attorney Walter Bailey, longest
serving County Commissioner in America, I am delighted to support President Biden's

nomination of United States Attorney Kevin Ritz for appointment to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. My father Walter and I have known Attorney Ritz for many years. He is as down-to-earth as he is an effective prosecutor and leader. As I have faced his assistant prosecutors in court for many years, they speak of him with sincerely, respect and delight for his leadership. We are lucky to have Mr. Ritz as a strong and effective driver for justice within the West Tennessee legal community. Even better, Kevin Ritz is a lifelong Memphian with a pulse of the culture and evolution of the West Tennessee justice system.

Mr. Ritz's scholarship boasts serving as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Memphis law school for eight years. He taught teaching foundational research, writing, and advocacy skills in their Legal Methods course for legal writing. I understand that he also helps Law students through externship placements in his current office and his involvement in the Leo Bearman, Sr. American Inn of Court, the Tennessee Bar Association, the Memphis Bar Association, and the Federal Bar Association of which I am an active member in each.

As a career federal defense lawyer with my father Walter Bailey, and member of the Criminal Justice Act Panel of both West Tennessee divisions, I can honestly attest that there are few natives of Tennessee with level of familiarity of the Sixth Circuit like Attorney Ritz particularly with his appellate experience. As a friend and lawyer, Attorney Ritz is thorough, honest, sincere and personable.

Prior to serving as a federal prosecutor and appellate expert, Attorney Ritz clerked for the Honorable Julia Gibbons of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. The question of whether he would make an impartial judge on that court is not a question in the eyes of his local colleagues.

I could go on with unlimited reasons, but I am honored to provide this letter of support for the nomination of Kevin Ritz to the U.S Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. He is an admired and simply sharp-minded attorney and would serve as an cerebral and excellent Judge. I thank and commend President Biden on his selection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Taurus Bailey". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name "Taurus" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Bailey".

Taurus Bailey, Attorney At Law

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