

July 7, 2023

The Honorable Richard Durbin, Chairman
The Honorable Lindsey Graham, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: Letter of Support from Former AUSA Colleagues of Brandon S. Long,
Nominee for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana**

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

We write to convey our strong support for the swift confirmation of our former colleague, Brandon S. Long, to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. We are a bipartisan group of former Assistant U.S. Attorneys in Washington, D.C. and New Orleans who worked with Mr. Long under both Democratic and Republican administrations. We know and respect Mr. Long for his commitment to the rule of law, steady temperament, keen intellect, and dedication to public service. If confirmed, he will make an excellent District Court judge.

During his nearly 13 years with the U.S. Department of Justice, Mr. Long has consistently demonstrated the good judgment, tireless work ethic, and devotion to fairness and equality that reflect the highest standards of Department of Justice attorneys. Starting in 2010 as an AUSA in Washington, D.C., Mr. Long handled a variety of cases in the Superior Court for the District of Columbia and before the District of Columbia Court of Appeals – ranging from misdemeanor street crimes to some of the city’s most violent felonies. He earned respect from his peers for his exhaustive investigations and exacting legal analysis. And while he maintained a full and active docket, he was never too busy to cover a hearing for a colleague or help think critically about a thorny issue of law. To opposing counsel, Mr. Long was a vigorous yet open-minded and respectful advocate, committed to ensuring that justice was discharged fairly and dispassionately.

Similarly, since 2014, Mr. Long has handled an array of federal criminal matters as an AUSA in the Eastern District of Louisiana involving violent gang members, unscrupulous public officials, opioid dealers, and insurance fraudsters. He has served with distinction as a line prosecutor in the Financial Crimes Unit and the Narcotics Unit, and in leadership positions as the office’s Opioid Coordinator and Deputy Chief of Narcotics. Through his collegiality, dependability, and innate sense of justice, Mr. Long has earned the respect and trust of his colleagues and the local legal community.

We have no doubt that Mr. Long will bring many of these same attributes to his judicial service on behalf of the citizens of the Eastern District of Louisiana. We wholly endorse his confirmation.

Yours, Very Respectfully,

James A. Petkun
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Columbia

Uma Amuluru
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Columbia

Tom Bednar
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Columbia

Christopher Bruckmann
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Columbia

Justin Dillon
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Columbia

Jeff Cook
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Columbia

Julia K. Evans
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Louisiana

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Rizwan A. Qureshi
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Ephraim (Fry) Wernick
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Columbia

Richard W. Westling
Former First Assistant U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Louisiana

Erik Zwicker
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Columbia