

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

We are former Assistant United States Attorneys with decades of collective experience prosecuting individuals for violations of federal law, ranging from large-scale drug and gun trafficking organizations, to white collar criminals, corrupt public officials, and those who commit crimes against children. We believe in the rule of law and its enforcement. Equally, we believe in our Constitution. Many of us are now defense attorneys who represent those accused of federal crimes. An accused's constitutional right to an attorney, regardless of the charged crime, is something in which we all strongly believe.

All of us have worked closely with Judge Embry J. Kidd over the past several years. As a former colleague in the U.S. Attorney's Office, we observed Judge Kidd work tirelessly to ensure that those who violate our nation's laws and victimize its citizens are held accountable for their actions. He handled some of the office's most complicated cases as a prosecutor, including international wire investigations, complex financial investigations, and sensitive public corruption investigations. He also vigorously prosecuted gangs, drug-trafficking organizations, and child sex offenders who had daily, negative impacts on the people of central Florida. He was recognized for those efforts with the FBI Director's Award and the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) National Award.

Many of us have also had the pleasure of appearing before Judge Kidd as a U.S. Magistrate Judge. His reputation for fairness, open-mindedness, and civility is known throughout the Middle District of Florida. For those of us who are defense attorneys, we never doubt that our clients will receive a fair hearing before Judge Kidd and that all parties will receive the respect that they deserve.

In closing, we, the undersigned former federal prosecutors, are confident that Judge Kidd will be a thoughtful, fair, and impartial appellate judge, and we enthusiastically recommend Judge Kidd for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

Sincerely,

Nathan W. Hill
Sean P. Shecter
David L. Haas
Joseph M. Schuster

Simon A. Gaugush
Andrew C. Searle
Daniel W. Eckhart