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July 26, 2024

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Chair  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nomination of Judge Jonathan E. Hawley for United States District Judge

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

I am honored to write you to provide my enthusiastic and unequivocal support for the appointment of United States Magistrate Judge Jonathan E. Hawley to the position of United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois. Throughout his career, Judge Hawley has exhibited the character, demeanor and intellect we should all hope to see in a federal judge.

To provide some context for my recommendation, I served in the Department of Justice for almost 17 years, first from 1989 to 2002 as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, and then from 2002 to 2005 as the United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois. Since December 2005, I have been a partner at Thompson Coburn LLP. It was in my role as United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois that I met Judge Hawley.

During my tenure as United States Attorney, I had regular interaction with the Federal Public Defender's Office, on both individual cases and during informal lunch meetings designed to foster open and productive communication between our two offices. Through both of these forms of interaction, I came to know Judge Hawley. During the course of my meetings with Judge Hawley, I became impressed with his knowledge, judgement and demeanor. He immediately struck me as a skilled attorney who could zealously represent his clients while maintaining the civility and professionalism that is, sadly, sometimes lacking in the modern legal environment. My impressions of Judge Hawley were echoed by the Assistant United States Attorneys who served under me, as well as the members of the bench before whom he appeared. Suffice to say that as an Assistant Federal Public Defender, First Assistant Federal Public Defender, and the Public Defender, Judge Hawley earned a reputation with both the members of the bar and the bench as a hard-working, ethical attorney with unquestionable integrity.

Judge Hawley's reputation has been further burnished since being appointed United States Magistrate Judge for the Central District of Illinois. As a United States Magistrate Judge, Judge Hawley has exhibited his skill in handling cases in an efficient, just, and fair manner, while treating

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the parties and attorneys who appear before him with respect. In return, Judge Hawley has earned the respect of the bar, the bench, and the citizens of the Central District of Illinois.

As a result of my tenure with the Department of Justice, I hold the federal judiciary in the highest regard. As a practicing attorney, I see first hand the impact a United States District Judge can have on the lives of people from every walk of life. I believe, therefore, that it is essential that federal judges truly be our best and brightest, in every sense of those terms. Throughout the course of his career, Judge Hawley has proven that he fits that description to a tee. The citizens of the Central District of Illinois would be lucky, and well served, to have him confirmed as a United States District Judge.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to provide my insights regarding Judge Hawley. I would be happy to give you any additional information that may be of use.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.P. Miller', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jan Paul Miller