

July 17, 2024

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

Re: Nomination of Jonathan Hawley, United States District Court, Central District of Illinois

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

I am delighted to write in support of this nomination.

Soon after I became United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois (2010), I began to meet periodically with Richard Parsons, Chief Public Defender for the District, and then I began to meet periodically with Mr. Hawley, Mr. Parsons' successor as Public Defender, as soon as Mr. Parsons retired. Mr. Hawley quickly earned my complete professional respect, since he understood the specific role of the defense as well as the search for individual and systemic justice. Mr. Hawley and I appeared together whenever the Judges invited us to their periodic meetings, so that we could hear the Court's concerns and express any concerns that we might have. In our District, the prosecutors, defenders and Judges all understood their own specific roles as well as the roles of others in the criminal justice system, and we all shared the ability to listen and to communicate.

Mr. Hawley and I became friends, getting together on multiple occasions and discussing our backgrounds, interests and concerns. I appreciated this personal relationship, because Mr. Hawley is a person with significant depth, character, integrity and genuine concern for others. We maintained this personal relationship once he became Magistrate Judge, and continued this relationship until my retirement in 2016.

In Mr. Hawley, the District Court would be getting an outstanding person, an outstanding lawyer, and an outstanding Judge. He is an outstanding choice for the Bench. I am pleased to write this letter on his behalf, and I would try to answer any question that you might have.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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