

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

August 18, 2023

Dear Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

I write this letter in support of Judge Jeffrey M. Bryan's nomination to the federal bench, and to speak to his reputation and performance as a judge from the perspective of a prosecutor who handled cases before him. During his time as a District Court Judge in Minnesota's Second Judicial District, I prosecuted many serious felonies before Judge Bryan. As a rule, I was grateful to have Judge Bryan preside over the cases I handled.

Judge Bryan treats the lawyers who practice before him with respect, and sets high expectations for the quality of legal practice in his courtroom. His work ethic is a rising tide that lifts all ships, as he creates an environment in which prosecutors and defense attorneys alike bring their best to bear on the cases before him. He is exceptionally well-prepared, bringing thoughtful and well-researched rulings to knotty legal issues. And his depth of experience enables him to guide and handle complex litigation efficiently and effectively.

As a special victims unit prosecutor, many of the cases I tried before Judge Bryan involved allegations of criminal sexual conduct or significant familial violence. The even-keeled and professional decorum that he maintains in even the most difficult moments empowers participation in the court process by vulnerable and shaken victims, while firmly protecting the integrity of the proceedings for the accused. His history as a prosecutor gives him a deep understanding of the foundational role of the prosecutor as a minister of justice, and of the complex issues that law enforcement must balance in investigating criminal cases. This background informs Judge Bryan's sincere dedication to due process. In the end, his rulings reflect a deep sense of true justice and fairness.

Judge Jeffrey Bryan would be an excellent addition to the federal bench, and I strongly support his nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelly Olmstead", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Judge Kelly Olmstead
District Court Judge
Second Judicial District, Minnesota