

April 1, 2024

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
Sarah_Bauer@judiciary-dem.senate.gov

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
Ryan_Giles@judiciary-rep.senate.gov

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
United States Senate
357 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Kaytlin_Lane@blackburn.senate.gov

The Honorable Bill Hagerty
United States Senate
251 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Clark_Milner@hagerty.senate.gov

Re: Nomination of United States Attorney Kevin Ritz to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

Dear Senators:

As former Presidents of the Memphis/Mid-South Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, we write to you as individuals to endorse the nomination of U.S Attorney Kevin Ritz to serve as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Since 2005, U.S. Attorney Ritz has worked in the Office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee. He has held the role of Special Counsel to the United States Attorney for U.S. Attorneys under both Presidents Obama and Trump. He served as Criminal Appellate Chief from 2010 to 2018 and as Appellate Chief from 2018-2022. U.S. Attorney Ritz has written more than 200 briefs and argued 37 cases before the federal court of appeals. There is likely no attorney in the Western District of Tennessee with more appellate experience than U.S. Attorney Ritz.

In addition to his professional duties, U.S. Attorney Ritz has been an active member of the local and state bar. As former Presidents of the Memphis/Mid-South Chapter of the FBA who all served with U.S. Attorney Ritz on the Board of the FBA, we know U.S. Attorney Ritz personally and through his service to the Court. He is regarded highly by nearly every attorney who has interacted with him for his character, intellect, integrity, and demeanor. We know U.S. Attorney Ritz as a talented and thoughtful attorney but also as a man who is extremely committed to the legal profession and his community.

It is our opinion that the citizens of the United States would be fortunate to have U.S. Attorney Kevin Ritz as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. With the authorized inclusion of our names below, we endorse U.S. Attorney Kevin Ritz's nomination and urge you to support his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Bryce W. Ashby
2017-2018

Earl W. Houston, II
2015-2016

William B. Ryan
2008-2009

Michael M. McLaren
2018-2019

Amy M. Pepke
2009-2010

Colleen Hitch Wilson
2019-2020

Michael E. Gabel
2010-2011

Shea B. Oliver
2020-2021

J. Gregory Grisham
2011-2012

Ben J. Scott
2021-2022

Eric E. Hudson
2012-2013

Mary C. Hamm
2022-2023

Craig A. Cowart
2013-2014