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April 18, 2024

The Honorable Dick Durbin  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
[Sarah.Bauer@judiciary-dem.senate.gov](mailto:Sarah.Bauer@judiciary-dem.senate.gov)

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn  
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Washington, D.C. 20510  
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The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Ranking Member  
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The Honorable Bill Hagerty  
United States Senate  
251 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
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The Honorable Philip Brest  
Chief Nomination Counsel  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
[Phillip.A.Brest@who.eop.gov](mailto:Phillip.A.Brest@who.eop.gov)

**Re: Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals Appointment for United States Atty. Kevin Ritz**

Dear Chairman Durbin and Honorable Senators:

I am writing to you in full support of Kevin Ritz for a position on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. I have been practicing criminal defense in Memphis, Tennessee since 1977. During

my practice, I have worked on cases with a great number of prosecutors. One of those prosecutors is Kevin Ritz, whom I met approximately 20 years ago. Our relationship was one of adversaries in Court with he being an Assistant U.S. Attorney and me being a defense lawyer. In the great number of cases I have worked with Mr. Ritz, I've found him to be a lawyer that possesses great attributes. Those attributes include his being intelligent, honest, hard working and fair. I have never known him to take any action contrary to his ethical obligation as a prosecutor. At all times I have found Mr Ritz to be prepared for Court and to be a perfect representative of the Government.

I wholeheartedly and without reservation, recommend that the Committee confirm the nomination of Kevin Ritz to serve on the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leslie I. Ballin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Leslie I. Ballin, Esq.

LIB/bjy