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December 5, 2023

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

**RE: The Honorable Cristal C. Brisco
Judicial Nominee to the United States District Court
for the Northern District of Indiana**

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

We have had the privilege of knowing and working with the Honorable Cristal C. Brisco for many years. We write to you today to express our enthusiastic and unequivocal support for her confirmation as a federal district judge for the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana.

Despite having to manage a sizable caseload and her many professional responsibilities, Judge Brisco has always carved out time to serve her community. We at Notre Dame have benefited directly from Judge Brisco's commitment to community. She has made invaluable contributions as a member of the Notre Dame Law Alumni (NDLA) Board where she served as the Affinity Representative for Black Alumni for six years. In that role, she also acted as a liaison to the Black Law Students Association and served as a mentor to our Black law students. She made herself available to students in any way she could: advising them on academic and career matters, connecting them with alumni throughout the United States, and helping them navigate law school as a diverse student.

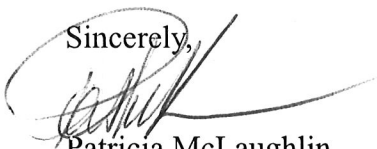
After her term as the Affinity Representative, Judge Brisco moved to the Executive Advisory Committee of the NDLA Board. She played a crucial role in the creation of the NDLA Board's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, on which she currently serves. Her equanimity of temperament was crucial in leading challenging discussions involving equity and inclusion. Judge Brisco's decisiveness was essential as she later served with a small group of committee members who worked to successfully amend the NDLA bylaws to include additional board members to serve as liaisons to other diverse student groups providing more support to those students who had not historically been represented on the NDLA board.

Over the years, Judge Brisco has been a frequent guest speaker at Notre Dame Law School where she has shared her professional experience on many different topics including judicial clerkships, women in law, and diversity and inclusion. Judge Brisco received the Notre Dame Law School Black Law Student's Alvin J. McKenna Alumnus/a of the Year Award in 2018 and 2021. Being awarded this honor twice indicates how respected she is by our Black law students and how valuable she is to our Law School community. Furthermore, Judge Brisco has been involved with the Indiana Conference for Legal Education Opportunity (ICLEO) which has been a tremendous service to our diverse students entering law school.

Judge Brisco has been instrumental in the success of her alma mater as our students have benefited from seeing first hand her commitment to public service while witnessing her passion for justice and her kindness. She has helped numerous students at the different phases of her career including hosting student externs while she was at the City of South Bend and Saint Mary's College. The externship in her chambers at the St. Joseph Superior Court is one of the most popular externships at Notre Dame Law School because the students learn so much and benefit from her mentorship. As a result of alumni like Judge Brisco, Notre Dame Law School has seen a steady increase in our students' interest in serving the public as judicial clerks and success in attaining post-graduate clerkships.

Judge Brisco has the professional experience, a strong commitment to public service, and the personal qualities that include equanimity of temperament, decisiveness, passion for justice, and kindness that will make her an excellent federal judge. We support her confirmation without qualification.

Sincerely,



Patricia McLaughlin
Program Director, Career Development
Notre Dame Law School



Tammye Raster
Program Manager, Alumni Relations
Notre Dame Law School