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December 4, 2023

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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

## The Honorable Cristal Brisco Re: Judicial Nominee to the United States District Court for the Northern **District of Indiana**

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

It is our distinct privilege to recommend Judge Cristal Brisco for appointment to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana. Our law firm has worked for

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**JOANNE R. SOMMERS** 

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many years with Judge Brisco as a former client representative and as litigants in her court. We also know her through bar association and other activities in South Bend, where she plays an active role in the community. Two of us worked alongside her during the Indiana State Bar Association's Leadership Development Academy, a program many of our colleagues have highly valued. She is smart, capable, open-minded and has the highest integrity. Judge Brisco has many years of experience in the private practice of law, in government as lead counsel for the City of South Bend, Indiana, and as a state trial court judge. She has excelled at all roles that she has performed. We believe it would be no different if you were to confirm her to the federal bench.

As Corporation Counsel for the City of South Bend, Judge Brisco was adept at handling numerous disparate matters at the same time. She brought energy, enthusiasm, and a keen intellect to the job. Judge Brisco was actively engaged in all our matters together and spent the time and focus to learn new areas of law that were unfamiliar to her. It was a joy to work with her in this capacity.

When Judge Brisco ascended to the position of St. Joseph County Superior Judge, some of us had the pleasure of litigating in front of her. She was always thoroughly prepared, fair, asked thoughtful questions of both sides and ran her court with efficiency. She treated every person in her court with dignity and empathy. She embraced the opportunities to tackle complex, nuanced legal issues and make difficult decisions because she was guided by her profound respect and understanding of the law. Judge Brisco approached each matter with an open mind, high standards of civility, and a willingness to dig into complex issues. The many roles she has undertaken as a lawyer provide Judge Brisco with a valuable, multi-faceted background that would serve her well on the federal bench.

In sum, we enthusiastically recommend Judge Brisco as being very well qualified for an appointment to the federal bench. Thank you for considering our resounding endorsement of Judge Brisco. Please reach out to us if there's any additional information we can provide to you about our personal and professional experiences with Judge Brisco.

The Honorable Richard Durbin The Honorable Linsey Graham December 4, 2023 Page 3 of 3

Respectfully,

George M. Plews

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