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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

RE: Letter in Support of the Nomination of Laura M. Provinzino to the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota

Dear Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

I retired from the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota in October of 2022, after more than 25 years as an Assistant United States Attorney in its criminal division. For the last 12 of those years, I served with Laura M. Provinzino, who joined the office in 2010. In 2018, Ms. Provinzino joined the office's Leadership Team as Chief of the Major Crimes Section of the Criminal Division. As Senior Litigation Counsel, I, too, was a member of the Leadership Team. The Leadership Team met every Friday to discuss the merits and advisability of charging criminal cases, many from the Major Crimes Section. I estimate that I attended more than 150 such meetings at which Ms. Provinzino presented and discussed criminal cases emanating from her section to the United States Attorney.

Based on my work with Ms. Provinzino and my presence at those meetings, I know that, every week, Ms. Provinzino presented charging recommendations to the United States Attorney based on the law, the facts, the putative defendant's established criminal history, the federal interest in bringing a case, and absolutely nothing else. I am therefore certain that, if confirmed, Judge Provinzino would serve with the same distinction, integrity, and profound fealty to the rule of law she has embraced as an Assistant United States Attorney.

Let me now turn to Ms. Provinzino's prodigious intelligence. Everybody knows that most people who become Rhodes Scholars and graduate from Yale Law School are, at a minimum, "book smart." But Ms. Provinzino is also intelligent in exactly the way good judges need to be. She remembers facts at their first mentioning. She quickly understands their collective meaning. Shortly before my retirement, Ms. Provinzino and I analyzed a complex narcotics case involving

several defendants, numerous witnesses, and myriad electronic evidence, and I was very impressed with her quick mastery of the lattice-work of evidence narcotics investigators presented to us. Ms. Provinzino is always awake, clear-eyed, and the quickest study I have ever encountered.

Finally, let me comment on two intangible qualities which will make Ms. Provinzino a great judge.

First, Ms. Provinzino's "EQ" is as high as her "IQ." She is a genuinely empathic person. She cares about humanity deeply. She is just a really good person. These qualities will make her a great judge, just as they undoubtedly make her a great mother.

Second, Ms. Provinzino is enormously self-possessed, yet not the slightest bit overbearing, a rare combination. She appears to live her life in accordance with Max Ehrmann's admonition in *Desiderata*: "As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons." I have never heard Ms. Provinzino say anything hostile, rude, or impolitic to or about anybody. And despite her many responsibilities, I have never seen Ms. Provinzino flustered, overwhelmed, or panicked. She is a delightful, calming, uplifting colleague, and her fellow judges will be grateful for her presence when she joins the bench.

For all of these reasons, I full-throatedly urge her prompt confirmation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if the Committee on the Judiciary needs further information.

Sincerely,

s/ David J. MacLaughlin

David J. MacLaughlin, Esq.

Cc: Senator Amy Klobuchar