

Stephen A. Studer
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December 1, 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 Brisco
Judicial Nominee to the United States District Court
for the Northern District of Indiana**

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

I write to you in full and unqualified support of the nomination of Cristal Brisco to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana. Her demeanor, efficiency, integrity and intellect are laudable and her elevation to the federal court will greatly serve the citizens of the United States, particularly those in northern Indiana.

I first met and started working with Judge Brisco a decade ago when she served as Corporation Counsel for the City of South Bend. The City was involved in a major environmental matter in which I served as outside counsel. Despite no particular experience in such matters, Judge Brisco immediately understood the complex legal issues involved and provided valuable advice and counsel from the beginning. Her ability to quickly grasp facts, the applicable law and apply the appropriate legal principles was remarkable.

When Judge Brisco became the General Counsel of Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana, we continued to work together. I marveled at her ability to transition from the world of municipal law to being the lead legal counsel for a leading educational institution. Her ability to quickly get to the heart of legal issues and her willingness to collaborate and work collegially were hallmarks of my working with her.

Judge Brisco, now a St. Joseph Superior Court Judge, who also serves as an Indiana Commercial Court Judge, a court which receives and administers justice in only the most

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complex civil commercial cases. It is a testament to her many abilities that Governor Eric J. Holcomb appointed her to these positions at such a young age.

I am certain many will write in support of Judge Brisco for this important position for which she is nominated. Let me just add, however, that in addition to her exemplary legal and judicial skills, Judge Brisco is one of the most personable and pleasant people I have had the pleasure to work with in my nearly 50 years of legal practice. She is very proud of her family – rightly so – and is quick to produce photos of their latest interests and adventures. While always respecting the law, she has shown great empathy and compassion in dealing with matters that is such an important trait in a judicial demeanor.

I respectfully request that you confirm Judge Brisco to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen A. Studer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "S".

Stephen A. Studer