

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL

DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL
BARRY P. STAUBUS

DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
WILLIAM B. HARPER

INVESTIGATORS
JOSEPH G. FELTY
SUSAN O. RUSSELL

DUI COORDINATOR
BOBBY BEDWELL

(423) 279-3278
FAX (423) 279-3290



SULLIVAN COUNTY
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT
P.O. Box 526
Blountville, Tennessee 37617

ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEYS

SANDRA S. SPIVEY
K. KAYLIN RENDER
JOSHUA D. PARSONS
ANDREA N. BLACK
PETER M. FILETTI
KRISTEN E. ROSE
JOSHUA D. ROSE
LAUREN E. WILLIAMS
ALEXANDER C. GRIFFITH
DAVID C. BLEDSOE
MATTHEW W. DARBY
LINDSAY K. EARHART
AMBER D. MASSENGILL
CARSON D. REYNOLDS
HEATHER N. SMITH
LOUIS D. TORCH
ALEXIS R. STAUBUS
CARTER M. ELDTRETH
DYLAN J. GAHAGAN
JENNIFER C. BARNES

June 18, 2024

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

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

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
United States Senate
357 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Hagerty
United States Senate
251 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Re: Tennessee District Attorneys General support the nomination of
Karla Campbell for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit**

Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Graham, Senator Blackburn, and Senator Hagerty:

I write to express my support for the nomination of Ms. Karla Campbell to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

I am the District Attorney for the Second Judicial District in Tennessee, elected by the people of our respective judicial districts to prosecute crimes and maintain the peace and safety of our districts. My districts represent the diversity of Tennessee, including rural and urban counties across the State.

In recent years, many of us have witnessed the communities that we serve be devastated by the opioid crisis and the influx of other illicit drugs, many of which are controlled pharmaceuticals. While we strive every day to use the criminal justice system to fight the epidemic, many of us also believed that more could be done to hold distributors accountable civilly. To that end, we (three DAGs from the first three judicial districts) retained the law firm of Stranch

Jennings & Garvey (then called Branstetter Stranch & Jennings) to represent us in our capacities as DAGs against various pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors pursuant to the Tennessee Drug Dealer Liability Act. Our claims sought recovery of much needed funds to establish addiction and drug recovery programs for residents of our districts. The case involved unique claims and matters of first impression in interpreting and applying this statute.

As a partner in the firm at that time, Ms. Campbell was an integral part of our litigation team. She and the whole team worked tirelessly for our communities and for our constituents, litigating in various courts against multiple defendants, all the while traveling the State to visit all the judicial districts and getting to know those individuals impacted by the drug crisis. In particular, Ms. Campbell used her expertise to litigate multiple interlocutory appeals within the Tennessee appellate courts in furtherance of our claims.

As a result of this litigation and her efforts, the DAGs and my district secured millions of dollars, money that is earmarked to go directly to impacted communities. Of special note, the funds from this lawsuit have gone toward the establishment of a treatment center in rural upper East Tennessee. Ms. Campbell has told us how important this outcome is for her personally as a native of East Tennessee herself.

In sum, as an experienced prosecutor, I strongly recommend Ms. Karla Campbell for the Sixth Circuit. She will serve our State and our federal courts with the same commitment to the wellbeing of its residents and the rule of law that she has shown in representing us.

Sincerely yours,



District Attorney General Barry P. Staubus, Second District