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The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman 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: Nomination of Joshua Kolar to the United States Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

We respectfully submit this letter in strong support of the nomination of Magistrate Judge Joshua Kolar to the United States Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. We are partners with the Northwest Indiana law firm Eichhorn & Eichhorn, LLP. We have had the pleasure of practicing before Judge Kolar as a Magistrate Judge, and we all believe he will make an excellent addition to the Seventh Circuit.

One of the undersigned, Julia Kwait, had the opportunity to observe Judge Kolar try cases over multiple years while she clerked for United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana Judge Joseph Van Bokkelen. This was back when Magistrate Judge Kolar was an Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Indiana (from 2009 through 2019). When he was practicing, it was evident that he was a highly skilled trial lawyer. But more than that, he always remained polite, clear-headed, and calm under pressure. He treated criminal defendants and their attorneys with respect.

As the rest of the undersigned have observed in recent years, Judge Kolar carried these traits to the bench with him when he was selected to serve as a Magistrate Judge in the Northern District of Indiana in 2019. Our firm handles a significant federal case load, and Judge Kolar presides over many of our cases. In doing so, he has always exemplified the qualities most critical in an excellent judge. He is unfailingly fair, courteous, professional, reasonable, and respectful to all comers. He treats attorneys and pro se litigants alike with dignity. He is dependably calm and patient.

This is true even in instances that would try the best person's patience. Some of our cases with Magistrate Judge Kolar involve Indiana pro se prisoners who bring claims of constitutional violations against prison staff employees within the Indiana Department of Correction. These prisoners have significant difficulty navigating our courts, and they can often be unpredictable and difficult to handle in motions, briefings, hearings, and trials. Judge Kolar takes the time to understand their cases and the claims before him, even when those claims are lengthy and disorganized. Yet he efficiently and fairly advances the cases.

One of the undersigned, David Beach, recalls a past case in which Magistrate Judge Kolar was particularly impressive in his work ethic. In that case, a pro se plaintiff who happened to be a serial litigant filed a case against a Seventh Circuit Judge. He had filed numerous motions over the course of time that had languished, and he began to insinuate that the District Court Judge presiding over the case was biased in favor of the judicial defendant. The District Court Judge referred the case to Magistrate Kolar to step in given the allegations of bias. Just approximately one month later, Judge Kolar entered a 59-page order

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containing his findings, report, and recommendations. He promptly, respectfully, thoroughly, and dutifully addressed every pending claim and issue.

While presiding, Magistrate Kolar respects the dignity of everyone before him. He also maintains the dignity of the Court even in challenging circumstances when other jurists might lose their cool. He has a firm and decisive hand, which mixes well with his even temper and willingness to listen considerately to everyone.

Judge Kolar is also special in that his love of the law and the legal professional extends beyond the courtroom. He is a committed member of the Calumet American Inns of Court—an association of Lake County Judges and Lawyers who meet monthly to present CLEs, mentor younger lawyers, and encourage civility and comradery within the practice. Judge Kolar rarely misses a meeting, and he never hesitates to help others with advice and assistance. He is a role model for other lawyers.

Judge Kolar's character and conduct have earned our respect. We know his integrity, forthrightness, keen intellect, and strong interpersonal skills will serve him well on the Seventh Circuit. He is honest, humble, open-minded, with a deep respect for the law and the rights of individuals. We have no doubt he will be a credit to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Thank you for considering this letter.

Very truly yours,

EICHHORN & EICHHORN, LLP

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CC: The Honorable Senator Todd Young