



SCHOOL of LAW

Risa Goluboff

Dean | Arnold H. Leon Professor of Law | Professor of History

April 3, 2024

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Via email only: Sarah_Bauer@judiciary-dem.senate.gov

The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Via email only: Ryan_Giles@judiciary-rep.senate.gov

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
United States Senate
357 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Via email only: Kaytlin_Lane@blackburn.senate.gov

The Honorable Bill Hagerty
United States Senate
251 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Via email only: Clark_Milner@hagerty.senate.gov

Re: Kevin Ritz's Nomination to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

I am writing to support Kevin Ritz's nomination to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Kevin is a supremely talented lawyer and dedicated public servant, a Memphis native whose career as a federal prosecutor and appellate lawyer—including his current role as U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee—has prepared him well for an appointment to the federal bench.

The whole of Kevin's career has been characterized by hard work, remarkable achievement, and a commitment to serving others. He spent his undergraduate years at the University of Virginia, receiving the Jefferson Scholarship (the University's signature full-tuition scholarship) and graduating Phi Beta Kappa and with high distinction. After earning a master's degree in foreign service at Georgetown and serving as a Presidential Management Fellow at the U.S. State Department, Kevin returned to Virginia for law school, on the full-tuition scholarship that the Law School reserves for our most promising students. Kevin once again excelled academically, serving as the Book Reviews editor of the *Virginia Law Review*, and graduating Order of the Coif. His contributions outside the classroom were myriad, earning him the respect and admiration of both his peers and his professors. He received the Law School's Ritter Award for honor, character, and integrity, and the University's Raven Society Award for service and contributions to the University.

I first got to know Kevin in the fall of his third year of law school, when he was a student in my very first course on Civil Rights Litigation. As one might expect, he was a terrific student—smart, engaged and engaging, friendly and intellectually generous with his classmates. He was then as he is now deeply curious, interested in people, and committed to getting right any question or task at hand. I have been delighted to stay in touch with Kevin—and to keep track of his brilliant career—ever since.

After clerking for Judge Julia Gibbons on the Sixth Circuit, Kevin joined the Memphis U.S. Attorney's Office in 2005. He has worked for the people of the Western District of Tennessee ever since, serving as a line prosecutor, as the district's criminal appellate chief and its appellate chief, as special counsel to the U.S. Attorney, and now, as the United States Attorney. In addition to his career as a public servant, Kevin has served his community in countless other ways. He has served as a church deacon, a volunteer at a homeless shelter, and a volunteer radio host, to name just a few. Kevin earned the rank of Eagle Scout as a young man, and he has continued to exemplify the altruism and decency—the sense of fairness, duty, and civic pride—of that status throughout his life.

At a time when judicial nominations are so often an occasion for divisiveness, Kevin's nomination should be an opportunity for consensus. Kevin has been a model of professionalism and integrity. He has served our nation honorably and without partisanship or favor. His temperament is even-handed, measured, careful, and respectful. It is to be hoped that these virtues, which Kevin so much embodies, might continue to serve as common ground.



SCHOOL of LAW

Risa Goluboff

Dean | Arnold H. Leon Professor of Law | Professor of History

It is entirely fitting that Kevin Ritz has been nominated to the seat currently held by the judge for whom he once clerked. Indeed, it is hard to imagine someone more qualified for the role than Kevin, who has decades of practice experience before the Sixth Circuit and who has, quite literally, spent every moment of his legal career serving the circuit's residents. Kevin is a brilliant lawyer who has lived his commitment to justice and the rule of law for the first 20 years of his legal career. I very much hope that he will have the opportunity to continue to do so as the next member of the Sixth Circuit for decades to come.

I am pleased to lend my wholehearted support to Kevin's nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Risa Goluboff".

Risa Goluboff

Dean

Arnold H. Leon Professor of Law

Professor of History