



**TURNER • FEILD**

S T A N D I N G F I R M

**2650 Thousand Oaks Blvd., Suite 2325  
Memphis, Tennessee 38118  
Telephone: (901) 290-6610  
Direct: (901) 290-6613  
Facsimile: (901) 290-6611  
Email: [yturner@turnerfeildlaw.com](mailto:yturner@turnerfeildlaw.com)**

April 10, 2024

The Honorable Dick Durbin, Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
[Sarah\\_Bauer@judiciary-dem.senate.gov](mailto:Sarah_Bauer@judiciary-dem.senate.gov)

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
[Ryan\\_Giles@judiciary-rep.senate.gov](mailto:Ryan_Giles@judiciary-rep.senate.gov)

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn  
United States Senate  
357 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
[Kaytlin\\_Lane@blackburn.senate.gov](mailto:Kaytlin_Lane@blackburn.senate.gov)

The Honorable Bill Hagerty  
United States Senate  
251 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
[Clark\\_Milner@hagerty.senate.gov](mailto:Clark_Milner@hagerty.senate.gov)

**RE: Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals Appointment for United States Atty. Kevin Ritz**

Dear Chairman Durbin and Honorable Senators:

As former President of the NAACP Memphis Branch and Chairman of the NAACP Tennessee State Conference Legal Redress Committee, I wholeheartedly support USA Kevin Ritz's appointment to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Additionally, as a twenty-plus year practicing attorney, former clerk to the Honorable Samuel Hardy Mays, Jr., judge for the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee, and former Chairman of the Shelby County Board of Commissioners, I have personally observed the work of Attorney Ritz at every level of his career. It is beyond argument that he is very well acquainted with the federal judicial system. For almost twenty-years, Kevin has served in the Office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee at the trial and appellate levels. As such, he is well appointed and familiar with both federal civil and criminal matters.

CHAIRMAN DICK DURBIN  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Page 2

His accomplishments in the Office of the United States Attorney include but are not limited to multiple felony indictments targeting violent and repeat offenders; modernization of discovery and litigation practices in the office; creation of a National Security and Civil Rights Unit within the Criminal Division of the office; drafting of more than 200 briefs for the court of appeals as well as arguing 37 cases before the federal courts of appeal; and trying at least ten federal cases involving carjacking, robbery, drugs, firearms and other crimes. Kevin has the requisite and relevant experience to serve at the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Kevin's community work and background before serving in the United States Attorney's Office is equally impressive. He has served as an adjunct professor for the University of Memphis Law School; clerked for Judge Julia Gibbons at the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, worked at the U.S. Department of State, and served as a member of the American Inns of Court and the Memphis and Tennessee Bar Associations. Attorney Ritz graduated with honors from the University of Virginia School of Law and the University of Virginia undergraduate.

On a personal level, during the past few years in Memphis, Attorney Ritz has been a stabilizing force in our community through the pandemic, mass shootings, record-breaking homicides, and the beating death of an individual that made international news. Through it all, Kevin has served with poise and inspired confidence in his leadership throughout the community. Rudyard Kipling in his poem "If" talks about *walking with kings but not losing the common touch*. Kevin has certainly exemplified this uncommon duality which has served him well. He has taken his *Phi Beta Kappa* credentials to the halls of excellence in our federal judicial system but still has managed to remain humble and keep his *common touch* as he has done this tremendous work in our community.

Therefore, I implore you Chairman Durbin and the Committee on the Judiciary to ratify the nomination of Kevin Ritz to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. He is qualified. He has the temperament. He has the work ethic. He is ready to serve. Oftentimes, candidates may not have everything just right when seeking these kinds of appointments. This is not the case with Attorney Ritz. I cannot think of a better fit and nominee for this role on the Sixth Circuit than Kevin, and we hope and pray that you see it the same way and agree as well.

Sincerely,

**TURNER FEILD, PLLC**

By: /s/ Van D. Turner, Jr.

Van D. Turner, Jr.