



August 9, 2022

Chair Dick Durbin  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Ranking Member Chuck Grassley  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

I am writing to recommend Kymberly Evanson for the position of United States District Court Judge for the Western District of Washington. I serve as the Co-founder and Executive Director of the Seattle Clemency Project (“SCP”), a nonprofit organization that provides people serving life or long sentences in Washington with free legal representation to seek a just outcome in light of their rehabilitation. In 2019, Kymberly volunteered to take one of SCP’s most significant cases by agreeing to represent a woman who was serving a life sentence under the Three Strikes law. Through Kymberly’s work on that case and her broader support for the organization, I observed her exceptional advocacy skills, unmatched work ethic and commitment to using her position as a lawyer to increase access to justice for the whole community.

Kymberly’s client was the only woman serving a life sentence under Washington’s Three Strikes law and used the many years she served in prison to heal from past trauma, overcome her addiction to drugs, and become a force for good. Although Kymberly had never filed a petition for clemency before, it quickly became apparent that her extensive civil litigation experience provided a strong foundation to develop an effective advocacy plan for her client. As the case progressed, legislative changes opened new avenues for Kymberly’s client to get review outside the clemency process. Kymberly quickly adapted her strategy and worked with the county prosecutor to gain support for her client’s new pathway to relief. Because of Kymberly’s unwavering belief in her client, exceptional negotiating skills, and collaborative approach with



the prosecutor, Kymberly's client was released from prison in 2021. Kymberly has stayed active in her client's life post-release and continues to assist her with readjusting to the community.

I have also had the opportunity to observe Kymberly utilize an entirely separate set of skills as a partner of Pacifica Law Group. Kymberly uses her leadership role in the private sector to, in part, increase financial and legal resources for those who need support. Kymberly lobbied her firm to support SCP's work through sponsorships and recruited other lawyers at the firm to take on pro bono cases. Notably, in 2021, Kymberly was instrumental helping SCP place more than five clients with pro bono lawyers and Seattle University law student teams. She has now taken on a second clemency case.

Kymberly has a broad range of skills and natural abilities that make her one of the best advocates in the region. Her compassion and intellect made her a formidable adversary and stabilizing force for her clients. Her volunteer work shows a deep commitment to improving access to justice and fairness for everyone who goes through the legal system. Finally, her ability to move from one practice area to another and see the importance of individuals and their place in the system as a whole is remarkable. It is these same qualities that I believe would make Kymberly a first-rate member of the judicial branch. I strongly recommend her for the position and appreciate your consideration of her application.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Smith  
Executive Director  
Seattle Clemency Project  
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