

January 7, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member

Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: Nomination of Andre Bernard Mathis to the United States Court of Appeals
for the Sixth Circuit**

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We applaud and are delighted to support the nomination of Andre Bernard Mathis to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

This firm, one of the largest in the southeastern United States and among the most diverse in the country, has been made better by Andre. Our nearly 400 lawyers span fifteen states and international offices in London and Singapore. We have served as leaders of national, state, and local bar associations and as federal and state appointees in Democratic and Republican administrations. We boast a formidable collection of former law clerks from different levels of the federal and state judiciaries, including the Sixth Circuit and the district courts within it.

It means something when we speak with one voice, as we do today, and especially so given the timing of Andre's relatively short tenure with us. Many of us have known Andre for several years, but it took no time for others to learn that he exemplifies qualities long revered at Butler Snow, including humility and an uncompromising dedication to serving client and community with excellence. Anyone who knows Andre appreciates that he is neither extroverted nor demonstrative, yet he is efficient and impressively effective. Andre's integrity, legal acumen and diligence speak quite clearly for themselves and, together with his judicial temperament, will make for a superb member of the federal judiciary.

Because members of our Memphis office have known, respected, and admired Andre for the better part of two decades, we have had a front-row seat as he developed from star law student to standout lawyer and bar leader. Andre attended the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys

<i>Post Office Box 6010 Ridgeland, MS 39158-6010</i>	<i>T 601.948.5711 F 601.985.4500 www.butlersnow.com</i>	<i>Suite 1400 1020 Highland Colony Parkway Ridgeland, MS 39157</i>
--	---	--

School of Law, where he finished in the top 10% of his class, was an editor of the law review, and served on the moot court board. In the fifteen years since, Andre's hard work and talents have seen him listed in *Best Lawyers in America* in Commercial Litigation and Employment Law and named a Mid-South Rising Star in Commercial Litigation by *Super Lawyers*®. Andre's peers affirm these praises, having elected him president of the Ben F. Jones Chapter of the National Bar Association, chosen him for the Tennessee Bar Association's Leadership Law program, and named him Outstanding Associate of the Leo Bearman, Sr. American Inn of Court.


That Andre has distinguished himself as a trial lawyer at our firm, where former U.S. Attorneys and Fellows of the American College of Trial Lawyers lead our litigation practices, is significant. In an era of disappearing trials, Andre has had nineteen. He also has argued ten of some two-dozen appeals that he has briefed. This quantum of experience is enhanced by its quality—cases in both federal and state courts, involving both civil and criminal claims. In fact, perhaps the most impressive aspect of Andre's experience is its balance: In addition to managing a successful commercial, governmental, and employment litigation practice, Andre has handled nearly two hundred criminal cases, more than seventy of which were as a member of the Criminal Justice Act panel for the Western District of Tennessee. It is no surprise that Andre made partner at the venerable, 100-year-old Memphis law firm where he started his career before joining us as a partner two years ago.

Also significant is Andre's commitment to public service. Andre is a former board member of the Southside and Downtown Porter Boys & Girls Club (he was a member of the Southside Boys and Girls Club as an adolescent), and he has been named Alumnus of the Year by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Memphis. The Memphis Bar Association awarded Andre the Sam A. Myar, Jr. Memorial Award, its highest honor for public service for attorneys under the age of 40, in 2018. Last year, Andre was named a Fellow of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity, whose mission is to build a more open and diverse legal profession. Every year since 2008, Andre has coached student moot court teams at his alma mater, and he has mentored dozens of young lawyers who have gone on to successful careers in private practice, corporate industry, and public service themselves.

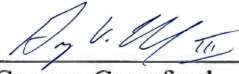
The prospect of losing Andre so soon after successfully recruiting him is bittersweet for us. In two short years fraught with a global pandemic and constantly shifting international, national, and local conditions, Andre has become a trusted colleague and critical member of several key teams. But we believe in the rule of law, in the quality and integrity of the federal judiciary, and in promoting the best and brightest lawyers of each generation to safeguard both. In fidelity to these long-held values, we fully support the elevation of Andre Bernard Mathis, an outstanding lawyer, public servant, and colleague, to the Sixth Circuit. We urge the Committee to promptly review and vote to confirm his nomination.

Sincerely,

The Executive Committee of Butler Snow LLP



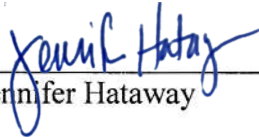
Christopher R. Maddux, Chair



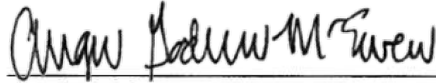
George Crawford



Tray Hairston



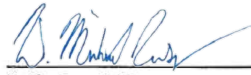
Jennifer Hataway



Angie McEwen



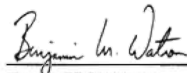
Orlando "Rod" Richmond, Sr.



Michael Russ



Edward L. Stanton III



Ben Watson