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The Hon. Dick Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
Sarah_Bauer@judiciary-dem.senate.gov

The Hon. Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
Brendan_Chestnut@judiciary-rep.senate.gov

Re: Support for the Nomination of S. Kato Crews as U.S. District Judge

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

I write in support of Magistrate Judge Crews and his appointment to the United States District Court bench. I had the great pleasure and honor of clerking with Judge Crews for two years and I believe he has the proper demeanor, temperament, and innate sense of fairness necessary to being a District Court Judge.

Judge Crews and I first met just before the pandemic in January 2020 at a time when I was seeking to change the trajectory of my legal career. Over coffee we discussed that although I'd spent most of my professional life in the federal sector, I was seeking to take my talents to "big law." But I needed to know whether my experience working for the federal government was transferrable to the private sector, and I wrestled with the notion that I even belonged there. First, Judge Crews assured me I did, in fact, belong. Second, he offered to serve as my mentor, which included joining him at various legal events and introducing me to other accomplished attorneys. In addition, he offered me a two-year clerkship in his chambers. I jumped at the opportunity and served as his 2020-2022 Term Law Clerk.

Throughout my clerkship, Judge Crews continued to convey that same sense of care for my future professional endeavors. We spoke frequently about the type of lawyer I wanted to be once my clerkship ended. The answer to that question evolved over time, in large part due to my interactions with Judge Crews. He is deeply devoted to his family and his community and strives to do the right thing in all aspects of his life. Judge Crews is disciplined and has high expectations for himself and those around him. His goal is always to get the correct answer, which does not always mean it is the easy one. He is a thoughtful and thorough jurist who works

hard to ensure that the rule of law is followed, and justice is preserved. To be sure, these traits are why he is so well-regarded by both the plaintiff and defense bars as well as the wider legal community.

Because of his guidance and mentorship, at the end of my clerkship, I had a variety of opportunities available to me, including offers in the public and private sectors. In discussing my options, Judge Crews noted his observation of my enthusiasm for plaintiffs' rights and their need for justice in all facets of life, particularly in their employment. He encouraged me to base my decision on not only what was right for me and my family economically, but also on these ever-growing passions, which ultimately catalyzed my decision to join the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as a trial attorney vindicating workers' federal rights.

Judge Crews is already an exemplary jurist and will undoubtedly prove to be a superb District Court Judge. I urge you to support his nomination.

Sincerely,

/s/

La Kischa J. Cook