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October 20, 2022

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck E. Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Subject: Confirmation of Todd Edelman, Judicial Nominee,
United States Court for the District of Columbia

Dear Senators Durbin and Grassley:

I write in strong support of Judge Todd Edelman to be a United States District Judge for the District of Columbia. Judge Edelman is exceptionally well qualified for the federal bench and will be a true asset to the Court.

I know Judge Edelman primarily in my capacity as the former Executive Director of the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia, DC's oldest and largest civil legal services program. I became Executive Director of Legal Aid in December 2010, just two months after Judge Edelman was sworn in as a DC Superior Court judge, and served in that capacity until January 2022. Although I write solely in my personal capacity – and, indeed, I no longer work for Legal Aid – the views expressed in this letter are drawn from the experience of numerous other public interest attorneys, not just at Legal Aid but at other public interest organizations throughout DC.

Judge Edelman is exceptionally well qualified to be a federal district judge. I know personally, have appeared before, and have worked closely with many federal and superior court judges. Even within the context of that remarkable group, Judge Edelman ranks at the very top of the list in terms of talent, compassion, integrity, patience, wisdom, wit, and numerous other superlatives. Public interest lawyers consider Judge Edelman to be one of the best, if not the very best, DC Superior Court judges both in terms of his talent level and his fairness to DC residents.

I have also worked with Judge Edelman in his capacity as leader of civil justice improvement issues after the pandemic (and, indeed, strongly supported his appointment to that role). In the capacity of the judge assigned to focus on improvements to the functioning of the high-volume courts, Judge Edelman was skilled at pushing for reform and deeply committed to ensuring justice for all, particularly those living in poverty without access to counsel. He is willing to think broadly about access to justice reform but is also clear-headed and realistic about how to

make improvements to the system. I also know Todd in a personal capacity. As far as I know, he is deeply ethical in his personal life. He is also, kind, funny, intelligent, loyal – all wonderful attributes for a federal district judge.

In another context, I solicited views from public interest attorneys about Judge Edelman. They particularly highlighted his treatment of unrepresented litigants, his intelligence, his commitment to the public interest, and, interestingly, his willingness to admit it on the rare occasions when his initial take on a legal issue or matter had been erroneous or flawed. He is genuinely open-minded and judicious on the bench. I include a representative sampling of their comments below:

- "Even when he is presiding over high-volume courts where time is so precious, Judge Edelman always is concerned with getting the right answer - not just the right result, but the right factual findings and the right legal analysis."
- "I'm confident that my reaction is the same as everyone else's (which is to say, overwhelmingly positive)."
- "I found Judge Edelman to be bright, thoughtful, patient, pleasant, and most important, observant of the rule of law. When he was new to the Domestic Violence court, I made an argument he had not heard before that ended up changing all of his rulings thereafter."
- "Todd Edelman is a great Judge and very pleasant and respectful of litigants. He runs an efficient courtroom but he is not rushed. He is really analytical and he thinks about the larger impact of his decisions. I learned so much about crafting legal arguments and how to think about the law from litigating in front of him. He really raised the bar for Domestic Violence litigation during his time as a DV judge."
- "Judge Edelman is incredibly well-prepared, thoughtful, and smart, and asks tough questions to figure out where the right answer is."

I strongly support Judge Edelman's confirmation to the federal bench. I am happy to be interviewed upon request. I can be reached at lericangell@gmail.com & (202) 352-8748.

Sincerely,



Eric Angel