

October 31, 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

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We have each had the privilege and honor of serving as judicial law clerks to Judge Todd E. Edelman during his service as an Associate Judge on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. We write to enthusiastically support his nomination for the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Our group includes private law-firm lawyers, government lawyers, and public interest lawyers, including prosecutors and public defenders. Although our professional experiences are diverse, we are united in our strong belief that Judge Edelman is a brilliant judge whose diversity of experience, judicial temperament, and relentless commitment to the promise of equal justice under law makes him an ideal selection for the United States District Court.

Judge Edelman's professional qualifications for a District Court judgeship are exemplary. As a public defender, commercial litigator, law professor, and trial court judge, Judge Edelman has grappled with innumerable complex legal issues and is more than equipped to resolve the important questions that will come before him on the District Court. Indeed, over the past twelve years as an Associate Judge on the D.C. Superior Court, Judge Edelman has handled a range of high-profile cases, from multi-million dollar real estate disputes to complex criminal trials and post-conviction challenges. As a District Court judge, he would bring a deep awareness of the effect of his rulings on both the litigants before him and the legal canon.

Judge Edelman's sterling credentials are far from the only thing that makes him an outstanding jurist. Judge Edelman has exceptional judicial temperament and a deep respect for every person that comes into contact with the judicial system. As an Associate Judge on the D.C. Superior Court, he has distinguished himself as a diligent judge who discharges his duties carefully, with great regard for the public he serves.

During our time in Judge Edelman's chambers, we were able to witness his thoroughness, thoughtfulness, and commitment to the fair administration of justice on a daily basis. Judge Edelman meticulously prepares for each hearing before he takes the bench. Before hearing any argument on an issue, Judge Edelman works tirelessly to understand both the particular facts of the case before him and the nuances of the law that apply to each issue on which he will render a decision. He approaches each case with an open mind, listens intently to the evidence and argument presented by each side, and faithfully applies the applicable rules, statutes, and precedent. Some of our fondest memories as law clerks with Judge Edelman are the conversations that we would have on close questions of law, many times with law clerks taking opposite sides of an issue.

In addition, Judge Edelman is unwavering in his commitment to the promise of equal justice under law. Judge Edelman treats everyone—parties, advocates, witnesses, court staff, and juries—with the utmost respect. When litigants appear before him, Judge Edelman listens closely to the parties' arguments, never assuming the answer to any factual or legal question. He is always engaged in the parties' presentations. Importantly, Judge Edelman works efficiently to ensure that every party is timely heard on his ever-growing dockets. Despite the pressures of high-volume calendars, in every proceeding and written opinion Judge Edelman strives to explain to each party what is happening to them and why. He takes particular care to make his rulings and the court's procedures as transparent as possible for pro se civil litigants and indigent criminal defendants. And, as Deputy Presiding Judge of the Civil Division during the COVID-19 pandemic, Judge Edelman worked to ensure that our courts remained accessible to people that needed them the most.

During our time in his chambers, Judge Edelman's judicial ethos was clear. The Court exists to serve the public, and because of that, Judge Edelman believes that the temptation to issue summary orders on high-volume dockets must be avoided, and that all of his written opinions should clearly set forth the basis of his decision for the parties and the public. As Judge Edelman's law clerks we knew that the draft opinions we gave him not only had to be right on the law, they had to be clear, concise, and written without any unnecessary legalese. Judge Edelman's clear and direct writing style is something that we have tried to emulate in our own practices.

On top of all these qualities, Judge Edelman is one of the kindest people that we have ever had the pleasure of knowing. He is always quick with a joke or a quirky pop culture reference. He never fails to thank his clerks for their hard work and dedication to the people we serve. During our time in his chambers, and in the years after we left, Judge Edelman has provided unwavering support and mentorship to each of us. He has celebrated the births of our children (and the adoption of many pets), officiated our weddings, sworn us into the bar, celebrated our personal and professional successes, and offered much-needed guidance in times of great challenge. Learning from Judge Edelman was one of the greatest honors of our careers thus far.

We wholeheartedly support Judge Edelman's nomination and respectfully recommend that he be confirmed to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

Sincerely,

Isaiah Boyd III  
Peter Calloway  
Kelly Frye  
Abigail Leinsdorf Garber  
Sophia Gebreselassie  
Lauren Hnatowski  
Afton Izu  
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Anne Jefferson  
Matthew Jimenez  
Sean Link  
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