

January 11, 2023

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Incoming Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re:** Letter of Support for Robert Kirsch's Confirmation to the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey

Dear Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, and Incoming Ranking Member Graham:

We are lawyers with diverse backgrounds, views, and experiences who have each had the honor of serving as a law clerk to Judge Robert Kirsch on the New Jersey Superior Court for Union County. Among our ranks are partners and associates in private practice, state prosecutors, public interest lawyers, and federal agency attorneys, some of whom have served as law clerks to federal district court judges, state appellate judges, and state supreme court justices.

We write to express our proud and enthusiastic support for Judge Kirsch's confirmation to the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey. We are united in our unreserved esteem for him as a profoundly dedicated jurist whose character, intellect, and entire career of public service make him eminently qualified to serve as a federal district court judge.

In his capacity as a state judge in Union County, New Jersey, Judge Kirsch has consistently demonstrated his devotion to the faithful interpretation of the law and careful consideration of the facts in every case and opinion. Prior to his current role in the Criminal Division, Judge Kirsch served in both the Family and Civil Divisions, where he presided over custody and child abuse matters, post-divorce disputes, juvenile court matters, and complex civil litigation. Each of these judicial roles has drawn on his intellectual rigor, wisdom, and principles of fairness. Throughout his time on the bench, Judge Kirsch has diligently applied the law equally to all those appearing before him and has sought to ensure that every litigant has felt heard by the justice system. This commitment is on display in every decision he has issued. In each opinion, he carefully explains his legal reasoning in a way that all litigants may understand why the result was merited in their case.

Judge Kirsch's professional background is complemented by his charisma and warmth. His enthusiasm for his work and love for people shine through everything he does. Judge Kirsch creates a palpable atmosphere of mutual respect and genuine concern for others that is felt by all

who step into his courtroom—from litigants to observers in the gallery, and regardless of background or circumstances.

By virtue of his breadth of exceptional legal knowledge and experience, he was viewed as a “go-to” by his judicial colleagues for his advice and counsel. Rather routinely, other judges in the courthouse would stop by chambers or would call him on the telephone when they were confronted with a difficult legal issue, knowing he would provide them with a reasoned, deliberative perspective.

Moreover, his work ethic is unrivaled. It is impossible to overstate the judge’s dedication. Keeping early hours and staying “until the work is done,” Judge Kirsch devoted significant personal time to ensuring the thorough, thoughtful, and timely resolution of motions and cases, all while balancing an active and vibrant life with his wife, Beth, and his two children, Jackson and Nedd. Whenever talking about his children, who were in elementary school when he first took the bench, he would beam with pride, regaling us with hilarious tales of their good-natured mischief. With a big smile, he called them his “instantaneous ego equalizers.” His chambers are plastered with pictures of his wife, kids, parents, siblings, and his many, many friends.

Judge Kirsch has made a lasting impact on our lives, and we have richly benefitted from his mentorship. From the moment he hired us, he consistently expressed his unbridled enthusiasm for us as his clerks and his absolute confidence that we would excel. He regularly checked in on each of us to see how we were doing and always made the time and effort to offer a timely word of encouragement or invaluable advice with his signature warmth and humor.

To us, however, Judge Kirsch was more than a professional mentor. He welcomed us into his “family.” As the years have passed, we have been beyond fortunate to be invited to Judge Kirsch’s home for holidays and to have him preside over our weddings, hold our newborns, and counsel us through our most important professional milestones and difficult personal issues—a divorce, a sick relative, or a death in the family. He has modeled for us what it looks like to be a scrupulous and hard-working member of the legal community as well as an incredibly devoted mentor, family member, and friend.

In sum, we are honored to have clerked for Judge Kirsch. His wealth of experience, legal acumen, and personality will make him an exceptional judge on the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey.

We offer our unconditional support for his nomination and urge you to confirm him.

Respectfully,

Catherine Bushong  
Heather Crimmins  
Greg D’Agincourt  
Robert Glenn

Clayton Harvey  
Jamie Picard Keesing  
Edward Percarpio  
Sarah Shore

Christopher St. Martin  
Emily Tabak  
Kevin White