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November 14, 2022

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. Senate  
711 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. Senate  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I write to enter a strong recommendation on behalf of D.C. Superior Court Judge Todd Edelman, who has been nominated to the federal bench in the District. I have known Judge Edelman for more than a decade, since we tried a case against each other when he was a defense attorney and I was an Assistant United States Attorney. He will make just as good a federal judge as he has made a Superior Court judge, and I recommend him without hesitation.

I first met Judge Edelman when he was a supervisor at Georgetown University Law Center's highly regarded Criminal Justice Clinic. I was trying a fairly routine case against him and one of his junior colleagues. The trial lasted for a few days, and it was hard-fought—but in a good way. We both made our best arguments and tried hard to get the jury on our side. But we never once got angry with each other or made anything personal. That is how law should be practiced, and it is certainly how Judge Edelman practiced back when I just knew him as “Todd.” The jury hung, which means he won and I lost. And he was gracious in victory as well.

I was very pleased when, just weeks after our trial concluded, he was nominated to D.C. Superior Court and later confirmed. Since joining the bench, he has cemented a reputation as a judge's judge. He is always prepared, he asks good questions, and—perhaps most importantly—you never know which way he'll come out. It doesn't matter that he used to be a defense lawyer. He decides cases on the facts and the law, not as an advocate. He is also unfailingly courteous to

the counsel that appear before him, even when he is asking tough questions, as I know him to have done. I can assure you, from hard-won experience, that not all judges are like that.

Finally, I would like to add a personal note—to wit, that I am a conservative Republican. And I would still cast my own vote to confirm Judge Edelman if I were a Senator. We need judges from both parties who are smart, who are honest, who have integrity, and who want that job for the right reasons—to serve and to decide cases correctly. Judge Edelman meets all of those criteria, and I hope Senators on both sides of the aisle will support his confirmation.

Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide you with any additional information in support of Judge Edelman.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Dillon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J" and "D".

Justin Dillon