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VIA FEDEX AND EMAIL

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

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We write in support of the nomination of United States Magistrate Judge Elizabeth W. Hanes to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

As civil defense attorneys who practice regularly in the Commonwealth of Virginia, we each litigated opposite Judge Hanes several times during her career at Consumer Litigation Associates, P.C. Since then, we each have had the privilege of appearing before her in her capacity as a United States Magistrate Judge. Our support for Judge Hanes's nomination to the district bench is guided by our specific interactions with her, as well as our collective understanding of the qualities that make district court judges effective.

Judge Hanes has a strong reputation in the Virginia legal community. She is universally regarded as fair, intelligent, and hardworking. Her quality was first realized by the criminal bar during her tenure as an Assistant Federal Public Defender. After she made the switch to private practice, the civil bar soon recognized the same.

As a plaintiff's attorney, Judge Hanes litigated several complex class actions, consistently conducting herself in a professional manner. She reliably acted in the best interests of her clients and did so fairly. She understood the ins and outs of her cases yet never lost sight of the big picture, both as to her clients and the overall legal landscape. And when litigation became contentious—as it sometimes did in hard-fought, high-stakes cases—Judge Hanes used her calm and measured demeanor to diffuse tensions to the benefit of all involved.

Judge Hanes's skills have translated seamlessly to the federal bench. As a Magistrate Judge, she has displayed an unrivaled work ethic. No matter the case or what is at stake, parties can rely on Judge Hanes to be equipped with extensive knowledge about both the facts and legal claims before her. Coupled with her balanced and reasoned approach, her preparedness has made her an invaluable resource to Richmond's district judges. Indeed, in addition to her more traditional judicial duties, she has helped resolve countless cases in the role of settlement judge.

Ultimately, Judge Hanes upholds the high standards of judicial excellence in the Eastern District of Virginia and would continue to do so as a district judge. Even as defense attorneys who were on different sides of an argument or had different viewpoints on the facts of case, we enthusiastically recommend that Judge Hanes be confirmed as the next district judge in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Respectfully,



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