

June 16, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Doris Pryor for the U.S Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We are former United States Attorneys for the Southern District of Indiana. We have been appointed by Presidents from both political parties and have had extensive experience in the federal criminal and civil justice system. We come together to wholeheartedly support the confirmation of Doris Pryor to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

We believe that Magistrate Judge Doris Pryor is extremely well suited and prepared to fill the vacancy that will occur when Judge David Hamilton assumes senior status. Judge Pryor has earned an excellent reputation serving as Magistrate Judge for the Southern District of Indiana since 2018. She has handled complex matters as well as matters in the ordinary course of criminal and civil litigation. She has been a tremendous asset to the talented bench in the Southern District of Indiana due to her work ethic, her demeanor, her reputation for fairness and objectivity and her willingness to take on challenging tasks.

Our knowledge of Judge Pryor stems from her many years of experience as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana from 2006 to 2018. Judge Pryor, an Arkansas native, graduated from the Indiana University Maurer School of Law in 2003 and returned to Arkansas upon graduation for the opportunity to serve as a law clerk for Chief Judge Lavenski Smith of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. She then clerked for Judge J. Leon Holmes of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas. After a short time as a deputy public defender for the Arkansas Public Defender's Commission, Judge Pryor fulfilled her desire to return to Indiana upon being hired as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of Indiana in 2006. Her experience as a federal law clerk for two federal judges as well as her time as a deputy public defender helped her secure the coveted position as an Assistant United States Attorney. It should be noted that Judge Pryor was hired during the Bush administration and remained in the United States Attorney's Office throughout the entirety of the Obama administration and extending into the Trump administration. She practiced in the Criminal Division beginning in 2006 yet led the

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United States Attorney's Office National Security Division as Chief from 2014 until she assumed the bench in 2018.

Judge Pryor was extremely well liked by her colleagues in the United States Attorney's Office and was well respected by the judges before whom she appeared. Her work ethic, amiable personality, and dedication to the rule of law and justice were greatly admired. While her career led her from a general criminal caseload to a more specialized national security portfolio, we believe that her background and experience both in the courtroom and working closely with the agencies focused on national security matters will prove invaluable to the appellate bench.

Judge Pryor leads with compassion and a sincere belief in the good of others. She led the effort with the late Southern Indiana District Court Judge Larry McKinney to begin the REACH (Re-Entry and Community Help) program. This program is designed to assist federal offenders who are re-entering society after serving a prison term and provides supports for their efforts to reintegrate, thereby reducing their risk of recidivism. The REACH program continues today and has expanded to include a clinic for law students from Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law.

Judge Pryor, if confirmed, will be the first Indiana judge of color to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. While historically significant, it is the qualifications that Judge Pryor has exhibited throughout her legal career that will greatly benefit the Court—her tremendous work ethic; her commitment to the rule of law and justice; her focus on ethics and integrity; her varied and diverse background as an attorney and judge and finally her kind and caring demeanor for all. Based upon all that we have shared, we strongly urge the confirmation of Doris Pryor to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

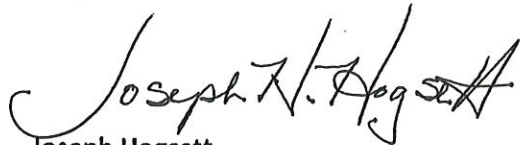
Sincerely,



Joshua Minkler

United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana (2015-2020)

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph N. Hogsett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a stylized "H".

Joseph Hogsett
United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana (2010-2014)
Mayor of Indianapolis (2016 to present)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan W. Brooks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and a stylized "B".

Susan W. Brooks
United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana. (2001-2007)
Former Member of United States House of Representatives (2013-2021)

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deborah J. Daniels". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a stylized "D".

Deborah J. Daniels
United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana (1988-1993)
Assistant Attorney General Office of Justice Programs (2001-2005)