

3722 Livingston Street, NW
Washington, DC 20015

September 6, 2022

Senator Richard Durbin, Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Charles Grassley, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support for Kymberly Evanson as a United States District Court Judge

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I write to express my strong support for Kymberly Evanson for the position of United States District Court Judge on the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington. If confirmed, Ms. Evanson will bring to the bench the same integrity, compassion, sound judgment, keen intellect, and deep respect both for the law and for all people that she has demonstrated throughout her career.

I first met Ms. Evanson in the summer of 2005, when she interned for the Honorable Emmet G. Sullivan on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia and I was serving as one of Judge Sullivan's law clerks. Though Ms. Evanson had only completed one year of law school at that point, she managed assignments and provided input reflective of someone far beyond that level. Judge Sullivan was so impressed with her abilities and work ethic that he later offered her a clerkship. Fortunately for him and for me, Ms. Evanson and her husband delayed returning to Washington with their infant son so that she could accept the clerkship. Hearing that Ms. Evanson would be clerking for Judge Sullivan, I accepted his offer to return as his law clerk for a second term, so I had the opportunity to work alongside Ms. Evanson for approximately eighteen months, from the fall of 2007 to early 2009.

Though she has accomplished so much since then, I want to spend a moment on the time Ms. Evanson served as a law clerk. The district court in D.C. has a large docket of legally complex and often high-profile cases. As he worked on these cases, Judge Sullivan quickly came to rely on Ms. Evanson even with respect to the cases that were not assigned to her, because her judgment is spot on, her research is exhaustive, and her analysis is meticulous. She also has an incredible sense of humor, so even in the most stressful moments, the work was gratifying and fun.

Despite the fact that I had graduated law school four years before Ms. Evanson and I had a few years of legal practice by then, I learned a tremendous amount working with her. One example is writing. Drafting district court opinions is a unique challenge because you are often simultaneously writing for multiple audiences: the parties, of course, need to understand what the court is ruling and why. But those decisions will frequently be reviewed by the D.C. Circuit and, on occasion, the U.S. Supreme Court, so the decision must convey to the appellate courts that the appropriate standard was applied, and the relevant factual and legal issues were addressed. Beyond that, the

opinions will often be covered in the media, so ideally the opinion is written in a way that is accessible and understandable to lay people with no prior familiarity with the case. Finally, the decision may be cited in future cases for years to come, therefore a well-written district court opinion puts the case in context in terms of precedent. All of this seemed to come almost naturally to Ms. Evanson—she is a gifted writer and every time she edited my drafts, she improved them tenfold.

After Ms. Evanson returned home to Washington, we stayed close. Professionally, we have shared victories and commiserated defeats and consulted one another on various career choices. It has been a thrill to watch her practice grow and thrive, and I envy her law partners, clients, and associates because I know how rewarding it is to work with Ms. Evanson. Personally, we have cheered one another in the good times and supported one another in the challenging times.

Ms. Evanson has the skills, experience and character necessary to be an outstanding jurist. She will treat all who come before her with respect and approach each case with objectivity and impartiality. Her decisions will be reasoned, clear, and consistent with precedent. She will be organized and manage her docket efficiently. Ms. Evanson will be a valued colleague and contribute to the court beyond her work in chambers. She will reflect well on the judiciary and promote respect for the rule of law.

I urge the Committee on the Judiciary to confirm Ms. Evanson's nomination to the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Addy R. Schmitt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Addy R. Schmitt