

Michael C. Ormsby
5319 S. Pinebrook Court
Spokane, WA. 99206

January 31, 2023

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chair, Judiciary Committee of the United States Senate

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee of the United States Senate

Re: Charnell M. Bjelkengren Nomination
United States District Court, Eastern District of Washington

Dear Senators Durbin and Graham:

I am writing to you in support of the confirmation of Judge Charnell M. Bjelkengren to the District Court Bench in the Eastern District of Washington. As a former United States Attorney in this District (2010 to 2017) and as a practicing attorney in the District for the past forty one years, I feel that I have an idea of the nature and scope of this judgeship as well as its importance to those of us who live and practice in the District.

You and your colleagues have undoubtedly already received significant background and professional experience information about Judge Bjelkengren. I would like to focus on the importance of the work experience that she had prior to her service on the State Court Bench. In the State Attorney General's Office she practiced in a number of areas and the clients she worked with were in various locations here in Eastern Washington. The exposure to these practice areas is important, but so is the fact that she was in and is therefore familiar with other parts of the District. The Eastern District of Washington covers all of Eastern Washington, which is a very diverse area. It is largely rural with a broad economic base which includes agriculture and resource based industries. While there are some good sized cities, including Spokane, a large geographical area is rural and open space. The nature of the entire population in the District requires an exposure to and understanding of the nature of the District. This background knowledge of the District has been strengthened by Judge Bjelkengren's activities in the broad community and the local and state bar associations.

This District is blessed with a strong Bench. Judge Bjelkengren would continue this strength. In her service on the state court trial bench (Superior Court) she has presided to verdict on over 130 cases in the last three years. This is a significant workload and includes a wide range of cases. Judge Bjelkengren has developed the reputation of being able to analyze cases that present both factual and legal complexity very quickly.

She also comes to court prepared. I would respectfully urge that you and your colleagues favorably consider her confirmation to the District Court Bench.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and consider my perspective. Best wishes in your continued important work.

Respectfully;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael C. Ormsby". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "O" at the end.

Michael C. Ormsby
Former United States Attorney, Eastern District of Washington