

April 11, 2023

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

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

I write to you today on behalf and in support of Mr. Darrel J. Papillion, recently nominated to serve as a district judge in the Eastern District of Louisiana. His nomination provides your Committee with the opportunity to meet—and then vote to recommend confirmation of—one of the most outstanding lawyer-leaders in Louisiana.

I am a professor at and the interim dean of the Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center. I became acquainted with Darrel, not to mention his sterling reputation, not long after I joined the faculty of the Law Center in 2005. In addition to being an alumnus of the LSU Law Center, Darrel has also served as an adjunct professor of litigation practice skills for many years, and he has also volunteered significant amounts of time in other leadership and mentoring roles with us. My esteem of him and his capacities has only grown over time with my increased familiarity with his standards of integrity and professionalism and his overall even-keeled good judgment.

There are few lawyers who can be as widely known among bench and bar as Darrel is, while still eliciting positive reactions among so many. Not once have I heard a negative comment about him—instead, he is known and respected by persons in a variety of roles, whether judge, co-counsel, opposing counsel, or other community member. His work with our students as an adjunct professor and in other volunteer roles at the Law Center has been second to none in quality, integrity, and in appreciation by the students, faculty, and staff with whom he engages.

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Darrel listens, he thinks, he cares, and he demonstrates his integrity and good judgment at every turn. I hope you will support his nomination as strongly as I do.

Sincerely,



Lee Ann Wheelis Lockridge
Interim Dean
David Weston Robinson Professor of Law
McGlinchey Stafford Professor of Law
Pan American Life Insurance Co. Professor of Law

LAWL:ch

cc: Hon. John Neely Kennedy
c/o Nathan Williams, Chief Counsel
via email (Nathan.Williams@Kennedy.senate.gov)

Hon. Bill Cassidy, M.D.