

August 26, 2022

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader U.S.
United States Senate
Room S-221, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader U.S.
United States Senate
Room S-230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

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

Re: Tamika Montgomery-Reeves

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chair Durbin, and Ranking Member Grassley:

I write to offer my enthusiastic support of President Biden's nomination of Delaware Supreme Court Justice Tamika Montgomery-Reeves to serve as a Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Allow me to introduce myself before I explain how I know Tamika, and why I believe that she will make a great appellate judge.

Born and raised in Sussex County, Delaware, I graduated from the University of Delaware (1973) and obtained law degrees from the University of South Carolina (1976) and Yale Law School (1979). After serving as Legal Counsel to Delaware Governor Pete DuPont, I was appointed by Governor Michael N. Castle to the Delaware Superior Court (1985-89) and later to the Delaware Court of Chancery (1989-2011), where I served as both Vice Chancellor and Chancellor. Although Senator Bill Roth recommended me to President George H. W. Bush to serve on the United States District Court for the District of Delaware, I decided to remain on the Court of Chancery. In 1997, then-Governor, now Senator, Thomas Carper appointed me Chancellor, or Chief Judge, of the Court of Chancery. And in 2009, Governor Jack Markell re-appointed me for another 12-year term.

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As Chancellor, I was able every year to hire two law clerks. In 2006, Tamika--fresh out of the University of Georgia Law School--arrived at my chambers, where she served until 2007. Tamika was an exceptional law clerk, bright, energetic, an excellent writer, highly analytical, articulate and blessed with good common sense—all the qualities that made her an exemplary law clerk, and later, a superb jurist. What is particularly endearing about Tamika is her down-to-earth modesty, her engaging personality, and the way she treats everyone with respect and dignity. All of these qualities, and more, made her one of the finest law clerks that served with me during my 26-year career with the Delaware judiciary.

In 2007, Tamika left my chambers and was hired as an associate at Weil Gotschal & Manges in New York City, one of the top-tier corporate law firms in the world. She was highly regarded at Weil and on a partnership track. In 2011, however, Tamika joined me in opening Wilson Sonsini's new Delaware office. Instantly recognized by my partners at Wilson Sonsini as an incredibly talented lawyer, Tamika was elected a partner just three years later. Then, in 2015, Delaware Governor Jack Markell appointed Tamika to the Delaware Court of Chancery, the first African American ever to hold that position. She quickly demonstrated her unmatched work ethic, her intelligence, and her commonsense approach to complex corporate disputes. It was only four years later when another Delaware Governor, John Carney, also recognized Tamika's abilities, appointing her to the Delaware Supreme Court. That was another milestone, as she became the first African American and the youngest person ever to serve on the Delaware Supreme Court. There, Justice Montgomery-Reeves has again demonstrated her judicial skills--the stellar intellect, the temperament, and the practical common sense that make her a judicial standout, a rising star in the judicial firmament. Justice Montgomery-Reeves possesses all the qualities that justify our high expectations for her--mature judgment, character, integrity, a prodigious work ethic, temperament, and experience.

As I travel around the State of Delaware, and around the country, I am often approached by lawyers who have appeared before either Vice Chancellor or Justice Montgomery-Reeves. They invariably praise her for her grasp of often-complicated issues, her perceptive and "to the point" questions, her patience, her modesty, and her abiding respect for those affected by a judge's exercise of judicial power. I am not surprised to hear these compliments, having known and worked with Tamika for almost two decades. And the most common refrain I hear from lawyers about Justice Montgomery-Reeves is their admiration for the genuine respect she always shows for others, for the views of advocates, for the interests of the parties, and for the decisions of other courts.

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I believe Tamika Montgomery-Reeves will be an outstanding jurist on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. She will make us all proud to know her. If you have any questions about Tamika, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William B. Chandler III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a distinct "III" at the end.

William B. Chandler III