

4712 E. 36th Ct.
Spokane, WA 99223

December 9, 2022

Chair Dick Durbin
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Ranking Member Chuck Grassley
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

I write in my personal capacity to endorse Charnelle Bjelkengren for the position of United States District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Washington. I worked with Charnelle when she served as an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) for the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH), where I also serve as an Administrative Law Judge.

While at OAH, Charnelle worked as a line Judge on multiple caseloads, primarily on the Unemployment Insurance caseload. Charnelle exemplified excellent judicial demeanor in all of her hearings and always produced a well-written, and legally sound orders in each case. Given Charnelle's background at the Washington State Court of Appeals, she has excellent legal research and writing skills, which she utilized not only in her own cases, but in mentoring and training many ALJs during her tenure at OAH. Charnelle quickly worked her way up to a leadership role as a Senior ALJ, where she supervised a number of ALJs. Charnelle was my supervisor for a time, and she always led with strength, compassion and knowledge. I always knew that she had an open-door policy and that when I went to her for guidance on cases she had the answer or she knew just how to find the answer. Charnelle also took the lead in many OAH workgroups and committees, while supervising and maintaining her own caseload. She worked with ALJs, management and various stakeholders across Washington State to ensure the quality of our hearings, our written work product and to ensure that OAH was always providing the best service to the citizens of Washington.

I have also had some opportunity to observe Charnelle in her work since she left OAH for the Washington Superior Court Bench. She has an excellent reputation with her peers, the

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lawyers that appear before her and the public as a hardworking and fair-minded member of the judiciary.

I strongly recommend Charnelle for the appointment to the District Court Bench in the Eastern District of Washington. If you, any of your colleagues, or your staff have any questions or would like additional information, I would be happy to talk with you further. Thank you for considering this information.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Juliana K. Weber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Juliana K. Weber
Phone: (509) 720-6824