

July 12, 2022

Hon. Richard J. Durbin
United States Senate
711 Hart Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Chuck Grassley
United States Senate
135 Hart Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Law Enforcement Support for Judge Dana M. Douglas to serve as Circuit Court Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth District

Cc: U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Dear Senators Durbin and Grassley:

As members in law enforcement, we write to express our strong support for the nomination of Judge Dana M. Douglas to serve as a Circuit Court Judge on the United States (U.S.) Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Since 2019, Judge Douglas has served as federal magistrate judge in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. Prior to this role, she served as Commissioner and Vice President of the New Orleans Civil Service Commission. As Commissioner, she exhibited an even-keeled approach and a deep understanding of policing and law enforcement more broadly.

Judge Douglas' understanding of law enforcement is bolstered by the fact that she comes from a proud and impactful law enforcement family in New Orleans, including most notably Warren Woodfork, who served as the first African American superintendent of the New Orleans Police Department; Richard M. Woodfork, who served as an agent in U.S. Customs and Border Protection and as a supervisory agent in the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration; and Michelle Woodfork, who currently serves as a captain in the New Orleans Police Department. Her mother, Ida K. Woodfork, also served in the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office for 30 years.

Given this background, it is clear that Judge Douglas understands the law enforcement perspective. Having served in various chief law enforcement roles, we—particularly those of us who have had first-hand experience with her—can say without hesitation that Judge Douglas' fairness and compassion uniquely qualifies her for this judgeship.

For these reasons and more, we urge the Committee to act favorably on Judge Douglas' nomination and the U.S. Senate to promptly confirm her to the Court. Judge Douglas' depth of experience as a lawyer, civil service commissioner, and federal magistrate judge—coupled with her record of integrity and outstanding commitment to community—would be an invaluable asset to the Fifth Circuit.

Respectfully,

Ronal W. Serpas, Ph.D.
Former Police Superintendent
New Orleans, Louisiana
Former Police Chief
Nashville, Tennessee
Former State Patrol Chief
Washington

Gladys Carrion
Former Commissioner
Administration for Children's Services
New York City, New York
Former Commissioner
Office of Children and Family Services
New York

Kami Chavis
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney
District of Columbia

John Diaz
Former Director
Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention
King County, Washington
Former Police Chief
Seattle, Washington

Edward Dowd Jr.
Former U.S. Attorney
Eastern District of Missouri

Barry Grissom
Former U.S. Attorney
District of Kansas

Ronald E. Hampton
Former Executive Director
National Black Police Association

Kathleen O'Toole
Former Police Commissioner
Boston, Massachusetts
Former Police Chief
Seattle, Washington

Richard J. Pocker

Former U.S. Attorney
District of Nevada

Vincent Schiraldi

Former Commissioner
Department of Correction
New York City, New York
Former Commissioner
Department of Probation
New York City, New York
Former Director
Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services
Washington D.C.

Paul Schnell

Corrections Commissioner
Minnesota
Former Police Chief
Maplewood, Minnesota
Former Police Chief
Hastings, Minnesota

Sean Smoot

Director and Chief Legal Counsel
Illinois Police Benevolent & Protective Association
Former Police Commissioner
Leland Grove, Illinois