



July 26, 2022

Phil Brest  
Chief Nominations Counsel  
Office of Senator Dick Durbin  
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee  
711 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Brendan Chestnut  
Chief Nominations Counsel  
Office of Senator Charles Grassley  
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee  
135 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Messrs. Brest and Chestnut:

I am writing in support of the nomination and appointment of Dana M. Douglas to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. As a lawyer and member of the judiciary, she is widely respected for her strong work ethic, integrity and character. I have known Judge Douglas since law school, and as a friend, she is loyal, committed, supportive, and has a deep love for her family, friends, and a strong sense of humanity.

Prior to joining the judiciary, Judge Douglas skillfully represented a wide variety of clients in complex matters, including representation governmental entities, corporations, non-profits, organizations as well as individuals. Judge Douglas handled complex contract issues for Fortune 100 companies and intellectual property matters and agreements for local nonprofits such as the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts as well as for individuals such as Ruby Bridges.

Since being appointed as a Magistrate Judge in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, she has earned a reputation for fairness, efficiency and justice. Those on both sides of the bar have attested to her careful consideration and even-handed approach to cases that come before her. In both professional and personal contexts, she maintains an even temperament, and Judge Douglas has earned the highest level of confidence in the legal community and among litigants.

Dana's love and commitment to the law is further evidenced by her high level of involvement with multiple legal organizations, including serving as President of the New Orleans Bar Association, President of the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Society, and a member of the Board of Governors for the Louisiana State Bar Association. She currently sits on the boards of the Federal Bar Association and the Louisiana Bar Foundation. The invaluable skills and experiences she has gained in both her professional and community life uniquely qualify her for an appointment to this esteemed bench.

Dana has worked tirelessly to ensure equal access to justice by all. She served as Chair of the 2017 Justice for All Ball appropriately themed, "Hungry for Justice," with Honorary Chair Mrs. Leah Chase to raise money for the Pro Bono Project. The effort furthered the mission of the Pro Bono Project to provide free, quality civil legal services to the underserved members of the community. Ms. Douglas chose the late Mrs. Chase as the Honorary Chair because of her work—not only in the culinary arts—but also in her continuing efforts in bringing dignitaries from both sides of the proverbial table and ordinary people from all walks of life together for the last several decades in the advancement of dialogue and work for equal justice under the law.

Over the course of her career, Dana has also organized and participated in legal clinics in various churches and community centers within the Tremé', Central City and Uptown New Orleans areas.

Her service to the community has been formally recognized by many. In 2008, she was presented with the prestigious Louisiana State Bar Association ("LSBA") President's Award. She was also twice selected as a "Women of the Year" honoree by *New Orleans CityBusiness* and a recipient of the 2018 National Bar Association Women Lawyers Division Outstanding Minority Partner in Majority Firm Award, and the Loyola University School of Law Gillis Long Public Service Award.

Being a relentless advocate for her clients in her professional life while assisting with access to justice issues in her personal time prior to her joining the bench evidences her commitment to all who come before the courts. Her respect for and even-handed approach to all who have appeared before her during her tenure as a Magistrate Judge further confirms that commitment.

For all of these reasons, Dana M. Douglas will make an excellent member of the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Please let me know if you need any additional information related to this important nomination.

Respectfully,



Sharonda R. Williams

cc: [paige.l.herwig@who.eop.gov](mailto:paige.l.herwig@who.eop.gov)