

December 23, 2021

Senator Dick Durbin
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee

**Re: Nomination of Andre B. Mathis to
U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals**

Attorneys at Law

Alabama
Florida
Georgia
Louisiana
Mississippi
South Carolina
Tennessee
Texas
Washington, DC

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Dear Senator Durbin:

I write today to urge you and your Committee to approve the nomination of attorney Andre B. Mathis to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

I am a native and lifelong Memphian. I have practiced law in Memphis (after clerking for a Tennessee Sixth Circuit judge) since 1986, including practice in both state and federal courts. I know well the very fine bench and bar of Memphis and Tennessee. I write to ensure that you know that Andre represents the best of our bar and that he is exceptionally prepared to be among the best who have served on our bench.

First, he is a supremely talented and well-qualified lawyer. He would bring to the bench all the intellectual power, educational background, practice skills, and experience that have served his clients so well.

Second, he has been an important leader in our both our legal community and the greater community. You have doubtless seen the list of leadership positions he has held, and I can assure you that these positions reflect real commitment and leadership in the legal community and beyond.

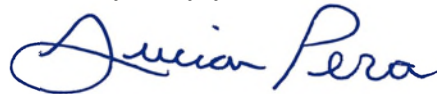
Third, the longer I have practiced law, the more important I have come to believe temperament is to the success of a judge. As you know, the proper judicial temperament must include a willingness to not only *be* fair and open-minded, but to *appear* to all concerned with the legal system to be fair and open-minded. The word “judicious” must come to life in the person of a good judge, both in how they substantively handle and decide cases, and in how they personally treat everyone they encounter in the judicial system. I have no doubt whatsoever that Andre possesses that temperament and will bring it in full to the bench.

Finally, a word about race. Our community is predominantly African-American. Our Memphis federal bench has a significant history of outstanding African-American judges. Today, when the rule of law in this country is under such serious stress, there is very little that is more important to the continued strength of the rule of law than confidence by all American citizens in our judiciary. In my opinion, approving the nomination to the federal bench of as fine a lawyer as Andre Mathis would significantly contribute to the confidence of Memphians and Tennesseans in the rule of law for many years to come.

I urge you to approve his nomination.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lucian Pera". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "L".

Lucian T. Pera