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September 28, 2021

Senator Richard Durbin, Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Hart Senate Office Building, SH-711
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Charles Grassley, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Hart Senate Office Building, SH-135
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I write to express my support of Magistrate Judge (MJ) Mary Katherine (“Kit”) Dimke to be a District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington. I have known MJ Dimke since 2007, when we both began as Assistant United States Attorneys (AUSAs) in the United States Attorney’s Office for the Western District of Washington. During the five years we worked together at the U.S. Attorney’s Office, MJ Dimke distinguished herself by her acumen, work ethic, and her passion for pursuing justice. In an office of bright young prosecutors, MJ Dimke was a star. She was an effective advocate who prepared her cases meticulously and challenged the law enforcement agents who worked those cases to think critically about the strengths and weaknesses of their investigations at every turn. I recall a large and complex health care fraud prosecution that MJ Dimke and I worked on together. Although I had been the lead prosecutor investigating the case and preparing it for over a year, the addition of MJ Dimke to the case completely energized and refocused our prosecution team on the evidence and challenges of the case. MJ Dimke was universally respected in the office as a strong advocate, but also as a prosecutor who would listen with an open mind to the arguments of defense counsel and push back on injustice where it unfairly tilted the playing field.

MJ Dimke and I became good friends during her time at the U.S. Attorney’s Office, and our families remain close to this day. That relationship has provided a window into MJ Dimke’s professional successes since leaving the Western District of Washington. I have watched with no surprise as she distinguished herself as a top AUSA in the Eastern District of Washington and for the last five years as a United States Magistrate Judge. MJ Dimke brings the same diligence and energy she showed as a young prosecutor to the disputes in her courtroom. I have no doubt she will bring the same qualities to the bench as a District Court Judge.

I left the United States Attorney’s Office in 2020 to move to private practice at the law firm of Davis Wright Tremaine. Among both government and private attorneys, MJ Dimke’s well-earned reputation is that of a knowledgeable, fair and even-handed jurist. Litigants come to

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Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley

September 28, 2021

Page 2

her courtroom secure in the knowledge that MJ Dimke will fairly and carefully consider their arguments and render justice free of bias.

All judges are borne of their life experiences. MJ Dimke is shaped by her deep roots in Eastern Washington. A proud daughter of a lumber mill owner, the lessons of hard work imparted growing up in Clarkston, Washington shine through brightly in MJ Dimke today. Her roots keep her humble, and this humility has been a consistent trait in her career from prosecutor to judge. In her personal and professional life alike, MJ Dimke treats people – regardless of their background, position, or status – with tremendous respect.

Finally, and fundamentally, MJ Dimke is a thoughtful, generous and compassionate human being. Sadly, we both lost our fathers within a year of each other in 2008-2009 while we were junior AUSAs. During that time, MJ Dimke supported me as a friend and colleague, helping me navigate a difficult time in my life while facing her own loss.

MJ Dimke will make a terrific district court judge. Her energy, intellect and compassion will leave those who appear before her proud and confident in the rule of law in the United States. I recommend her without hesitation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Diggs". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Matthew Diggs

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP