



## MEMPHIS AFL-CIO LABOR COUNCIL

AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS  
1870 MADISON AVENUE • MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38104  
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November 19, 2021

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
135 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Re: Letter in Support of Mr. Andre Mathis – Nominee for United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

On behalf of the Memphis and West Tennessee AFL-CIO Central Labor Council, also known as the Memphis Central Labor Council (MCLC), we write to encourage you to nominate Andre Mathis to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Mr. Mathis is eminently qualified for the position and, if nominated and confirmed, will continue to show his commitment to equal justice under the law.

Mr. Mathis will bring experiential diversity to the Sixth Circuit. Mr. Mathis has significant criminal experience, with much of his criminal defense practice dedicated to representing indigent individuals. Since he began practicing law, Mr. Mathis has been appointed to represent more than 100 indigent defendants in criminal cases in federal and state courts, including on appeal. Mr. Mathis also has a diverse civil practice, representing individuals, employees, and public and private employees in matters such as employment/civil rights cases, contract disputes, and tort claims. Mr. Mathis has tried nearly 20 criminal and civil cases, and he has handled more than 20 appeals.

Mr. Mathis would bring demographic diversity to the Sixth Circuit as well. While your administration has taken efforts to diversify the federal bench, historically, the federal bench has been lacking in demographic diversity. If nominated and confirmed, Mr. Mathis would be the first black man to sit on the Sixth Circuit from Tennessee. And he would be replacing Judge Bernice Donald, the first black woman ever on the Sixth Circuit.

In keeping with the MCLC's commitment to labor rights, criminal justice reform, voters' rights, and quality education for all, Mr. Mathis' longstanding track record of furthering similar causes in his own community is yet another reason for our enthusiastic support of his candidacy. Mr. Mathis served on the Board of Directors for his local Boys & Girls Club and is currently on



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the Board for Street Ministries, Inc., another organization dedicated to supporting impoverished youth through educational and homelife challenges through mentor-mentee relationships. Mr. Mathis has coached the University of Memphis' Cecil C. Humphreys' School of Law moot court traveling team since 2008. His fidelity to causes surrounding education, the elimination of poverty, and the overall betterment of youth and community are unmatched. In a similar vein, Mr. Mathis also strives to enhance collegiality, camaraderie and ethics in the legal community, as evidenced by his service as a hearing officer for the Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility, on the Board of Directors for the Memphis Bar Association, as a member of the Shelby County Ethics Commission, the Leo Bearman, Sr. Chapter of the American Inn of Court, as the Chairman of Diversity and Outreach for the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law and former President of the Ben F. Jones Chapter of the National Bar Association.

Mr. Mathis has a great record and we would be happy to support his nomination.

The MCLC is a Memphis, Tennessee-based union that acts as an umbrella organization for 41 affiliate unions based in western Tennessee, including, but not limited to, IBEW Local 474, Teamsters Local 667, the Memphis A. Philip Randolph Institute, and CBTU Memphis Chapter.

Sincerely,

Memphis and West TN AFL-CIO Labor Council Executive Board

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