

# LAW OFFICES OF SHAKA JOHNSON, LLC

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The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: *Honorable Judge Kai Scott*  
*Judicial Nominee to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of PA*

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We write as mentees of the Honorable Judge Kai Scott to express our enthusiastic support for her nomination to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and urge her confirmation.

Compelling mentors exhibit enthusiasm in their field, illustrate how that field is evolving, and foster professional development by motivating others. However, these attributes do not begin to encompass the influence that Judge Scott's leadership has had on us as emerging African American female attorneys. Leading with integrity, she understands the power and responsibility of the court to equitably allocate justice within the confines of the law while possessing a particular appreciation for the significance of the justice system being fair and impartial. Her remarkably qualified legal mind will serve as a powerful asset in addressing fundamental legal questions at the federal level, with a well-rounded set of experiences that will complement the court's promise of equal justice under the law. As an African American woman, she legitimizes this promise, and her confirmation to such a critical institution will enable her to contribute an important perspective vital in executing the important functions of our federal district courts.

Judge Scott earned a bachelor's degree from Hampton University in 1991 before obtaining her Juris Doctor from the West Virginia University College of Law in 1995. Her decades of legal experience began as a law clerk for Judge Donald Poorman of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Workers Compensation from 1996 to 1998. In 1998 she joined the Defender Association of Philadelphia as an assistant public defender where she handled cases from arrest through trial. In 2004, she joined the Federal Community Defender Office in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, serving over a decade as a federal public defender. Recognizing her leadership and trial advocacy skills, she was promoted to serve as the Trial Unit Chief at the Federal Community Defender Office from 2010 to 2015, until she was elected as a Court of Common Pleas Judge in Philadelphia County. Since being elected as a Court of Common Pleas judge, she

has presided over hundreds of cases, administering justice fairly, firmly, and consistently. It is here where we have had the privilege to witness how she preserves the essential obligations of our justice system, developing unique relationships that have had a tremendous influence in shaping the attorneys we have become.

Judge Scott reflects the finest of the legal profession, and we offer these comments urging you to review and advance with the aim that the Senate will promptly review and confirm her nomination.

Respectfully,

Jessica C. Mann, Esquire  
Keisha Matthews, Esquire  
Keisha Matthews, Esquire  
Shadia Combs, Esquire