



Hon. Richard Durbin
Chair, Senate Committee on the Judiciary
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Charles Grassley
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on the Judiciary
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

November 15, 2022

Dear Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, and Committee Members:

On behalf of the National Employment Lawyers Association (NELA), and its 4,000 circuit, state, and local affiliate members across the country, we write to express our strongest possible recommendation that Judge Todd Edelman be confirmed to fill a vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

NELA is the largest professional membership organization in the country comprised of lawyers who represent workers in labor, employment, and civil rights disputes. Founded in 1985, NELA advances employee rights and serves lawyers who advocate for equality and justice in the American workplace. Our members litigate daily in every federal district and circuit, affording NELA a unique perspective on how employment cases actually play out on the ground and an accurate understanding of the profound impact of the judiciary on the daily lives and the rights of working people.

Judge Edelman graduated from Yale University cum laude and is a graduate of NYU Law School where he also graduated cum laude. At NYU, he was a Root-Tilden-Kern Scholar, the recipient of a full tuition scholarship for students with high academic achievement and a strong commitment to public service. Judge Edelman clerked for Judge William B. Bryant, who was the Chief Judge of the Court on the District Court for the District of Columbia from 1994 to 1995. He was a trial attorney at the Public Defender Service (PDS) for the District of Columbia. Judge Edelman has served as an Associate Judge on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia since 2010.

Judge Edelman's background gives him an important expertise and perspective on cases he will decide as a district court judge. Particularly, he will bring critically needed insight regarding the challenges faced by working people as a result of his experience as a union-side labor lawyer. Additionally, his years as a public defender demonstrate his commitment to public service and ensure his deep understanding of the challenges faced by individuals whose liberty depends on strong representation and a fair, unbiased judge and jury.

In over ten years as a D.C. Superior Court Judge, he has faced complex legal issues and demonstrated his ability to resolve them in an equitable manner. Among the approximately 400 cases that Judge Edelman has presided over are disputes which called for careful dissection of facts and law to achieve a fair result. In a case of first impression regarding the District of Columbia Whistleblowers Protection Act, Judge Edelman's ruling on the statute of limitations was affirmed by the D.C. Court of Appeals in its entirety. While seated by designation on the D.C. Court of Appeals, Judge Edelman participated in decisions that reversed lower court failures to grant workers' their day in court.

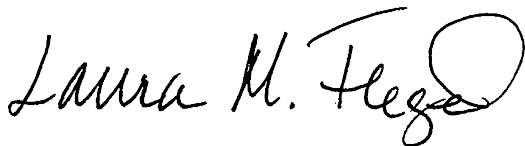
NELA has the highest regard and esteem for Judge Edelman. NELA's foremost goal with respect to the federal judiciary is to ensure that when everyday working people go to court, their cases will be presided over by a judge who is fair-minded, independent, and has the deepest understanding of both the law and of the lives of individuals who turn to the legal system when things go wrong. Judge Edelman would bring his depth and breadth of legal knowledge to the federal bench, ensuring a thoughtful and just result for parties that appear before him. We are confident that he will make an excellent District Court judge.

Judge Edelman's work as a public defender, labor lawyer, and judge have given him the background and experience such that he will bring deep knowledge of the needs and challenges of low-income and working families in the legal system. His confirmation to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia is a crucial step towards ensuring a legal system in which every litigant from every background has a fair shot in our courts.

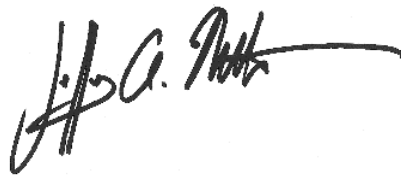
Judge Edelman's confirmation would fulfill an important and longstanding NELA goal which is also a stated goal of the Biden Administration; namely, ensuring diversity of the professional backgrounds of members of the federal bench by nominating lawyers who have represented Americans in all walks of life. We believe that a federal judiciary that reflects professional/experiential diversity will ensure a stronger and fairer judiciary. We strongly urge you to confirm Judge Edelman to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Laura Flegel at lflegel@nelahq.org or (202) 674-6552.

Sincerely,



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Legislative & Public Policy Director
National Employment Lawyers Association



Jeffrey A. Mittman
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