



# CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

LAW DEPARTMENT  
One Parkway  
1515 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102-1595

**DIANA P. CORTES**  
City Solicitor  
(215) 683-5003 (Tel)  
(215) 683-5069 (Fax)

September 6, 2022

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

**RE: Support for Kymberly Evanson as a United States District Court Judge**

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I write on behalf of the City of Philadelphia Law Department to support the consideration of Kymberly Evanson for the judiciary, specifically for a position as a United States District Judge in the Western District of Washington. Having worked with Ms. Evanson over the last several years, she is clearly a person of deep integrity and an accomplished, insightful attorney. These characteristics, in addition to her commitment to her community and the law, will make her an outstanding federal judge.

My knowledge of Ms. Evanson's legal acumen arises out of her work as outside counsel for the City of Philadelphia in a significant litigation challenging the accessibility of the City's sidewalks. I worked more closely with her while serving as the Chair of Litigation, and then stayed abreast of her work after I was appointed City Solicitor. Ms. Evanson has counseled several municipalities around the nation in similar litigations, and her efficient and effective work was invaluable in helping the City negotiate a complex problem and reach an equitable resolution. I was particularly impressed at the speed with which Ms. Evanson was able to assess a complex legal issue, get up to speed on the specific nuances of Philadelphia's departments and processes, and then counsel the City based upon her understanding of the law and the facts. The effectiveness of her work augurs well for her ability to administer justice in a fair and efficient way as a jurist.

In addition to being an excellent lawyer, Ms. Evanson is also, simply stated, a very good person. I found that this fact manifests in her approach to practice. Throughout my time working with Ms. Evanson, I have been consistently impressed with the extent to which she is sympathetic to important accessibility concerns while also recognizing that the law only allows for some forms of relief. Mindful and respectful of the issues raised by way of the suit, as is the City of Philadelphia, she also respected the contours of what is provided by law.

In sum, I think Kymberly Evanson will be an excellent jurist, administering justice fairly to all and serving as a credit to her bench.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diana P. Cortes". The signature is stylized and cursive.

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Diana P. Cortes  
Philadelphia City Solicitor