

August 17, 2022



Senator Richard Durbin, Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Charles Grassley, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Support for Ms. Kymberly Evanson as a United States District Court Judge

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I am writing to offer my enthusiastic endorsement of Ms. Kymberly Evanson's confirmation as a federal judge on the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington. Ms. Evanson is a distinguished alumna of Seattle University with a deep commitment to the Seattle area, to the rule of law, and to diversity in the legal profession. She will be a credit to the federal bench and to the Washington legal community.

Ms. Evanson attended Seattle University as an undergraduate from 1995-1999. Upon admission, she applied for – and was awarded – the Sullivan Scholarship. “The Sullivan,” as it is known, is Seattle University's most prestigious undergraduate scholarship, awarded to a handful of entering students who show both exceptional academic promise and a commitment to public service. Ms. Evanson has fully realized that promise, both as a student and over the course of her succeeding career. She excelled as a student at Seattle University, becoming a Truman Scholar and receiving numerous university accolades.

Since her graduation from Seattle University, Ms. Evanson has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to the law and to public service. Before law school, she spent several years working for the Access to Justice Institute, where she helped them found their community legal clinics and their immigration clinic. She then attended Georgetown Law, where she graduated cum laude, before clerking for District Judge Emmet G. Sullivan.

Since returning to the Seattle area, Ms. Evanson has continued to dedicate herself to the law in the public interest. Her law practice focuses on the representation of local governments and community groups. Her district court clerkship as well as her fifteen years of legal practice in the Western District of Washington, encompassing both state

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and federal courts, means that she is exceptionally well prepared to serve as a new federal trial judge.

Ms. Evanson maintains an extensive pro bono practice. She has been a dedicated volunteer for Seattle University, interviewing potential Sullivan Scholars as well as Truman and Rhodes Scholar finalists. And she has been a passionate advocate for equity and inclusion in the legal profession. She serves on the equity and inclusion team for her law firm and supports equity and inclusion professional development for lawyers.

Finally, Ms. Evanson's own career trajectory will contribute to professional diversity on the federal bench. As an attorney for local governments who has spent most of her career at a small law firm, she will bring a badly needed area of expertise to the federal court. As you know, most federal judges come out of either criminal practice or large-firm practice representing major corporations. And yet, as federal judges, they are often asked to rule on issues that have significant impact on local government, from First Amendment cases to regulatory takings claims. Confirming Ms. Evanson as a district judge who understands the dynamics and challenges of local governments will contribute to better judicial decision-making in these areas.

In short, Ms. Evanson represents the very best of the Seattle legal community. She is deeply rooted in this region, and she is passionately dedicated to this legal community. Her values – and the way she has chosen to live them out in her legal practice – reflect Seattle University's ambition to educate leaders for a just and human world. We at Seattle University could not be more proud to call her one of our own.

I strongly urge the Committee on the Judiciary to confirm Ms. Kymberly Evanson to serve as a judge on the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington.

Respectfully,



Eduardo M. Peñalver
President