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November 1, 2022

The Hon. Richard J. Durbin
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Chuck E. Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Todd Edelman to be a judge on the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

I have known Judge Edelman for nearly 25 years. We first met as frequent adversaries, when he served as a Public Defender, and I served as an Assistant United States Attorney, both in the District of Columbia in the late 1990s. We tried at least one case against each other, and worked to resolve many other matters prior to trial.

Even at that early stage of our respective careers, Todd stood out among his peers for his intellect, his integrity, and his dedication to his clients. It was always a pleasure litigating against Todd. You knew that he would fight hard, but fair, and that his excellence as a lawyer would demand your best effort as well. The environment of intense, high-stakes conflict in which we first met was not conducive to making friendships, but Todd and I did become friends, and it is a friendship that I have valued throughout my career.

Our careers led us in different directions for this century's first decade. During this period I served as a career official at the Department of Justice, and as a counsel to the Senate Judiciary Committee under the Chairmanship of Senator Orrin Hatch.

Judge Edelman and I were reunited in 2010, when we both were confirmed as Associate Judges on the D.C. Superior Court. Judge Edelman is a truly top-notch judge. He was one of the very small number of my colleagues that I would seek out to consult on thorny legal issues. He was unfailingly generous with his time, and always genuinely interested in the issue at hand. Todd would bring to these discussions both a wide-ranging knowledge of the law, and an ample dose of simple Midwestern common sense. Nearly always, I left our discussions with a clearer view on how to go about resolving whatever difficult issue I was facing.

Among practicing attorneys, Todd has a reputation for possessing an outstanding courtroom demeanor. He resolves matters promptly and fairly, and all attorneys appearing before him, whether they win or lose, come away persuaded that he has listened, understood, and fairly considered their arguments.

Perhaps lost among Judge Edelman's many accolades is the fact that he is, quite simply, a kind and decent person. Federal judges are, on occasion, asked to wield awesome power. I can think of few individuals I would be as comfortable wielding that power as Todd Edelman.

It is my privilege to give Judge Edelman my highest endorsement for a position on the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

Sincerely,



Stuart G. Nash
Associate Judge, D.C. Superior Court (ret.)