

**Margaret Hegarty and Khyati Short, Assistant District Attorneys
Suffolk County District Attorney's Office
Boston, Massachusetts**

September 20, 2022

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Majority Leader, United States Senate
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader, United States Senate
The Honorable Richard J. Durbin, Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, United States Senate
The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary, United States Senate

RE: Nomination of Honorable Myong J. Joun for United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Chairman Durbin, Minority Leader McConnell, and Ranking Member Grassley,

Thank you for the opportunity to share our experience as prosecutors handling numerous cases before Judge Joun in the Brighton Division of the Boston Municipal Court. We feel privileged to support of his candidacy for the Federal Bench.

It is wonderful to have Judge Joun as part of our neighborhood court. He is a man of compassion, duty, and honor. He is of good humor and disposition. We both feel very fortunate to have worked with him.

Judge Joun is always so respectful in the courtroom and truly challenges us to grow as prosecutors. He demands preparation by always being exceedingly prepared himself. He welcomes lively argument between the prosecution and the defense while also insisting on decorum and formality. Watching Judge Joun interact with defendants, he strives to ensure that they felt heard and respected, no matter the charges. He educated us to look beyond the charges in a case and to see the person(s) involved. He went a long way in teaching us the sense of balance that every prosecutor needs in their pursuit of justice.

Judge Joun presides over his sessions with a calm, professional, informed, compassionate, and open-minded approach. While formal, his gravitas is far from intimidating and his presence has been lauded by many as one of reassurance, fairness, and intelligence. His authority and control over his courtroom do not come from a place of personal ego – quite the opposite: his humility and deep respect for all resonates and contributes to a setting where serious work is done and consequences are imposed, but not at the risk of losing sight of the impact of app parties' court experience.

We, and our counterpart defense counsel, know that we'll be treated with respect as we advocate zealously for our respective positions. Judge Joun is thorough, patient, thoughtful, and exacting, allowing all to feel comfortable and significant at once. His always-impressive and ever-increasing expertise in rules of evidence, motions in limine, jury selection, up-to-the moment caselaw, jury instructions, and the mechanics of a trial are qualities that we only aspire to (and at times, are mildly intimidated by!). We learn from him daily and he has taught and guided us abundantly through his example.

We know, and it is readily evident to any observer, that Judge Joun has the ongoing, well-earned respect of judges, fellow counsel, other prosecutors, court personnel, defendants, and victims. His confident and calm demeanor, coupled with his intellect and legal acumen, distinguish him in his field and in this court. The longer we've worked with Judge Joun, the more we've become aware of the deep commitment to public service that spans his career. We are in full and enthusiastic agreement that Judge Joun is among the finest judges we've worked with, and we are thoroughly confident that he will bring dignity, intellect, expertise, and compassion to the federal bench. He's a wonderful person to work with.

Sincerely,

Margaret Hegarty and Khyati Short
Assistant District Attorneys
Suffolk County District Attorney's Office
Boston, MA