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Keagan Buchanan  
Chief Counsel, U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar  
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
**Via email: [Keagan\\_buchanan@judiciary-dem.senate.gov](mailto:Keagan_buchanan@judiciary-dem.senate.gov)**

RE: Letter of Support for Nomination of Hon. Dana M. Douglas to the United States  
Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

Dear Mr. Buchanan,

I am writing in full and unqualified support for the nomination by President Joseph Biden of the Honorable Dana M. Douglas (currently Magistrate Judge in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana) for the seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit that has been held for the past 27 years by the Honorable James L. Dennis. My support for Magistrate Douglas's nomination comes from three perspectives: as a former clerk for Judge Dennis, as a colleague of Magistrate Douglas for our entire legal careers, and as an appellate attorney practicing in the Fifth Circuit. Not only is the nomination of Magistrate Douglas important for our nation and for our Circuit as representation on the Fifth Circuit by another woman judge and by another Black judge—as there are currently only two Black judges on that Court, and the last woman judge was confirmed to that Court fully fourteen years ago, when Judge Haynes was confirmed—but she will bring to that Court a deep intellect, necessary pragmatism, and tempered empathy that will serve the Court well for years to come.

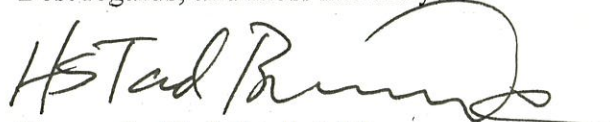
I had the honor to serve as a judicial law clerk for Judge Dennis in 2000-2001. In the more than two decades since, I have never worked for someone as tireless and hard-working as him, nor as demanding of those who work with him to give every ounce of ability and effort they have to getting it right—for the benefit of the law and for the benefit of the people subject to that law. So it has been with regret and worry that I have watched Judge Dennis grow closer over the years to the time when the Fifth Circuit would no longer benefit from him as an active-status judge on the bench—worry that whoever tried to fill those shoes would not be able to. But my worry is allayed by the nomination of Magistrate Douglas, who I know to be extraordinarily hard-working and dedicated to getting it right in much the same way that Judge Dennis is. As a former Judge Dennis clerk, I am proud that his seat on the Fifth Circuit may be filled by her.

I have comfort in that, because I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Magistrate Douglas—and forgive the drop in decorum, but here I will switch to referring to her as I know her, Dana—since we were both fresh lawyers. The year I clerked for Judge Dennis, Dana was clerking for Judge Ivan Lemelle in the Eastern District of Louisiana, just across the courtyard from us. Often the judicial law clerks in the New Orleans federal court complex would gather and discuss our jobs, and a few of us—at Dana’s instigation—had a monthly book club, where we would read great books and take a few hours at night each month in one of our judges’ chambers to break away from the law and the cases and discuss, ultimately, the human condition. This is not a frivolous detail of Dana’s life and career, but is a window into an intellectually curious and empathic human being, someone well-read but with a continuing appetite for knowledge. I cannot imagine a better qualification for the spot for which she is currently nominated. We went on from our clerkships to become young associates at the same firm together for a handful of years, Liskow & Lewis, before I moved to another firm, and I saw that intellect and empathy shape her as a practicing attorney. I also saw that impulse to quietly lead others, as she had that book club, emerge throughout her professional career; years later, when she was president of the New Orleans Bar Association and asked me to co-chair the appellate practice committee, I was able to work closely with her again as she tackled issues of bolstering our profession as a force for good in our community.

Finally, as an appellate practitioner in the Fifth Circuit, I have carried forth a study of the Court as it has evolved over the years—I run a blog analyzing every opinion by the Court and analyzing statistics and trends in the opinion-writing. So, from a purely professional perspective I have had great interest in who would fill Judge Dennis’s seat. Would it be someone with the qualities and qualifications to match up with the bright writers and thinkers who are that Court’s tradition? With Magistrate Douglas, the answer is a resounding yes. I will be proud to practice in front of a court with her on it, confident that the decisions she renders will never be born from ideology nor be tainted by a lack of rigor, but will instead come from hard work, experienced and seasoned knowledge of the law, and with a true sense of justice tempering the entire exercise.

Accordingly, please accept this letter of support for the nomination of Magistrate Dana Douglas to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. If there is any further information I could provide to the Senate Judiciary Committee to assist in its work, I would be glad to do so.

Best regards, and most sincerely,



Harvey S. (Tad) Bartlett III

Cc: Paige L. Herwig, *via email at Paige.L.Herwig@who.eop.gov*