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The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nomination of Hon. Kai Scott to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We, the full time Trial Advocacy of Temple University Beasley School of Law in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, gladly and strongly support the nomination of Judge Scott for a seat on the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Our interactions with Judge Scott – primarily in her capacity as an adjunct in an advanced course at the Law School but also in continuing education – and our knowledge of her reputation as a trial judge on the Common Pleas bench and in the legal community – make this letter of support an easy one to write.

Our background is diverse in its relation to the practice of law and criminal law in particular. Two of us have a background in criminal defense and the third is a former prosecutor; each has extensive engagement in professional organizations relating to law, such as serving on various United States Department of Justice and NIST workgroups and projects and as a member of the National Commission on Forensic Science (Professor Epstein) and on Philadelphia's Criminal Justice Advisory Board (Professor Braccia); and each of us teaches continuing education programs to the bench and/or Bar nationally and in Pennsylvania.

Here is what we can share, in detail, about Judge Scott.

- She has been an adjunct faculty member at Temple for the past five years, one of only two instructors who teach Advanced Trial Advocacy – Criminal each Fall. That alone puts her in a select group – the other faculty we have had for the Advanced course have been a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, two Judges from the United States District Court of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and one Federal Magistrate Judge from the same District. Teaching that course confirms her strength in several critical areas – the law of Evidence (federal as well as state); criminal law and procedure; courtroom advocacy; and professional responsibility.
- There is an additional facet of teaching Advanced Trial Advocacy – Criminal. The students are primarily those with a career path in criminal defense or criminal prosecution, so the faculty must be balanced and supportive of both interests. Judge Scott’s students have made it clear in their assessments – she is an extraordinary teacher who favors neither side and ensures that all are trained for their ultimate career goals.
- Judge Scott is also well known as a mentor – a mentor for colleagues when she was a practicing lawyer; a mentor for students seeking guidance for and assistance in finding careers. Mentoring requires inclusivity, knowledge and care – and Judge Scott offers all three.
- Judge Scott also ensures that lawyers continue to learn. As one example, Temple hosts an online conference for advocacy educators nationally, and Judge Scott volunteered to teach jury selection – the law, the art, and the best means of teaching it to students.
- Finally, Judge Scott’s reputation on the bench confirms all we have seen from her teaching. She is known as a ‘down the middle’ judge – applying the law as it is written. Deciding cases without partiality, and having the demeanor we would want of any judge – calm, respectful, firm when needed. This will make her a perfect addition to the Eastern District’s bench.

We value and strive for judges who will be independent, knowledgeable, fair and committed to the rule of law. We particular want judges with the mark of excellence. Everything Judge Scott has done in the classroom and throughout her career makes us confident that she will meet if not exceed those standards and be what everyone wants from the courts today – someone who will apply the law without favor and with respect, fairness and acuity.

Sincerely,

/s/ Professor Jules Epstein, Director of Advocacy Programs

/s/ Professor Elizabeth Lippy, Director of Trial Advocacy Programs

/s/ Professor Marian Braccia, Director of LL.M. in Trial Advocacy