



Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law
Office of the Dean

Katharine T. Schaffzin

1 N. Front Street
Memphis, Tennessee 38103 - 2189
Office: 901.678.1623
www.memphis.edu

Via Electronic Submission

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Senator Dick Durbin
Chairman, Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

***Re: Support for Nomination of Andre Mathis
to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit***

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

On behalf of the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, I am pleased to write this letter of support for President Biden's nomination of Andre Mathis to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Mr. Mathis is a leader among the Memphis legal community and will serve as a wise and thoughtful jurist. He brings with him the legal skill of a well-seasoned and well-respected litigator, as well as the humble perspective of the servant of a community in need. He will serve the citizens within the jurisdiction of the Sixth Circuit with distinction, as he has served the Memphis community for many years.

Andre Mathis has earned both his Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor degrees from the University of Memphis, a Tennessee-funded public university. As a student at Memphis Law, he distinguished himself by serving on the editorial board of the University of Memphis Law Review and the University of Memphis Moot Court Board. His time at Memphis Law was not limited to his studies and personal achievement; he also contributed to the success of the law school and broader community. He served as both the Vice President and Treasurer of the Black Law Students Association and he received several scholarships and awards, including the William Leech Memorial Scholarship, the Dean's Distinguished Service Award, and the Dean's Pro Bono Service Award.

Since graduating from Memphis Law in 2007, Mr. Mathis has prioritized his investment in the success of future lawyers in Memphis. For many years, he has tirelessly volunteered to coach the Memphis Law Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition team and the Frederick Douglas Moot Court Competition team. Under his leadership, both teams have experienced great success, including regional competition wins and advancement to national tournaments.

Additionally, Mr. Mathis currently sits on the Board of Directors for the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law Alumni Chapter and remains active in law school events.

I joined the Memphis legal community shortly after Andre Mathis graduated from Memphis Law and, in that time, he has demonstrated consistent and broad leadership among organizations of the bench and bar, of which I am a member. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Memphis Bar Association, and he is a past-president of the Ben F. Jones chapter of the National Bar Association. He remains actively engaged with both organizations and their memberships. Mr. Mathis currently serves on the Diversity Task Force for the Tennessee Bar Association. His leadership was recognized nationally in 2014, when former ABA president William C. Hubbard appointed him to the ABA Standing Committee on Gun Violence.

Mr. Mathis has demonstrated his commitment to service in all forms. He was a member of the exoneration teams for the Tennessee Innocence Project, the first full-time innocence organization in Tennessee. The organization represents men and women making claims of actual innocence, with the attorneys involved in the project investigating and litigating wrongful conviction cases for those in Tennessee prisons to obtain exonerations. Locally, he serves on the Board of Directors for the Downtown Porter Boys & Girls Club in Memphis.

Andre Mathis's accomplishments have brought great recognition of his work. He has been named among Best Lawyers in America for commercial litigation from 2018-2022 and for employment law & management from 2019-2022. Additionally, he's been recognized as a Mid-South Rising Star in business litigation by Super Lawyers since 2014. He was also included in the "Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities." He served as a Fellow on the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity in 2021 and he is a past Top 40 Under 40 award winner by the Memphis Business Journal.

For these reasons, I am honored to provide this letter of support for the nomination of Andre Mathis to the U.S Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. He is both a stellar attorney and a demonstrated community servant. He is a mentor to our law students and a role model to many young people in Memphis; our community would be greatly enriched if others were inspired to follow in the footsteps of Andre Mathis. I commend President Biden on his selection.

Sincerely,



Katharine T. Schaffzin
Dean & Professor of Law