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August 1, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate 711  
Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Re: Nomination of Kelley B. Hodge to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I am excited to provide this letter of support for Kelley B. Hodge, a nominee for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Ms. Hodge's extensive legal and leadership experience makes her well qualified to serve with distinction on the federal bench.

By way of brief background, I am a professor at the University of Virginia School of Law as well as a professor at both the School of Education and Human Development, and the Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy. I speak throughout the United States about K-20 school funding, education and democracy, equal opportunity, civil rights, Title IX and federalism. I have published two edited books and a diverse array of articles, book chapters and editorials in leading journals, including the *Harvard Law Review*, the *Stanford Law & Policy Review*, the *University of Chicago Law Review*, the *North Carolina Law Review* and the *Boston College Law Review*. Prior to joining the faculty at the University of Virginia, I was a professor at both the University of Richmond School of Law and Emory University School of Law. I also practiced law in the General Counsel's Office of the U.S. Department of Education and as an education litigation attorney with Hogan & Hartson law firm in Washington, D.C. (now Hogan Lovells). I also served as a clerk for Judge James R. Browning of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in San Francisco. I graduated cum laude from Harvard Law School and with a B.A. in foreign affairs from the University of Virginia. I am a member of the American Law Institute, a senior research fellow of the Learning Policy Institute and a faculty senior fellow with UVA's Miller Center.

Recommendation for Ms. Kelley Hodge  
August 1, 2022

I first met Ms. Hodge over twenty-five years ago while we were attending the University of Virginia as undergraduate students. While we each traveled our distinct post-graduate academic and professional paths, we had occasion to connect over the years due to our shared interest in education and the law. We are now connected as colleagues following Ms. Hodge joining the University of Virginia School of Law as an adjunct professor.

Ms. Hodge's extensive legal experience has prepared her well to become a federal judge. Her breadth and depth of experience as a lawyer spans two jurisdictions, Virginia and Pennsylvania, and over twenty years. Her career as a lawyer represents over ten years as a criminal trial attorney on both sides of the courtroom aisle. After graduating from the University of Virginia and completing law school at the University of Richmond, Ms. Hodge began her career as a public defender in Richmond, Virginia, and then relocated to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to continue her practice of criminal law as a prosecutor in the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office. In Richmond and Philadelphia, Ms. Hodge was a leader, serving in supervisory capacities in both offices. Following the District Attorney's Office, Ms. Hodge continued her interest in criminal and juvenile justice law after being named the Safe Schools Advocate by the Governor of Pennsylvania to oversee reported violence in the School District of Philadelphia. Ms. Hodge's experience as both a prosecutor and criminal defense attorney and as the Safe Schools Advocate have granted her a deep understanding of our judicial system that uniquely qualifies her to serve as a fair and impartial federal judge.

Following her work as Safe Schools Advocate, Ms. Hodge availed herself of opportunities to expand the scope of her legal knowledge by returning to the University of Virginia in 2015 to serve as the University's first independent Title IX Coordinator working alongside the President of the University. Following her work as Title IX Coordinator, Ms. Hodge transitioned to private practice with a focus on higher education, civil rights and compliance. Her work in private practice was briefly interrupted when the Board of Judges for the First Judicial District in Pennsylvania elected her to serve as the interim District Attorney for the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office. As District Attorney, she continued to deepen her leadership skills, judgment, and commitment to the rule of law as she advocated for victims of crime. She has built upon her experience as District Attorney in her current position as a partner in labor and employment at Fox Rothschild LLP with a practice that addresses sex and gender-based harassment in education and the workplace, race, age, and disability discrimination as well as internal investigations, risk assessment and compliance. Ms. Hodge also has demonstrated a commitment to instructing future lawyers on the profession as an adjunct professor of law. At every point of her legal career, Ms. Hodge has had to address, advise, or make decisions on complex legal issues. Her wide array of legal experience has prepared Ms. Hodge well to serve with deep insight and understanding on the federal bench.

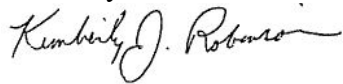
In 2020, Ms. Hodge and I met to discuss the possibility of her becoming a part of the adjunct faculty of the University of Virginia School of Law. After meeting to review the structure and substance of the course that Ms. Hodge was considering offering, I was excited to learn that Ms. Hodge had accepted the opportunity to teach Higher Education and the Law as an adjunct faculty member. Her passion and knowledge of the subject matter offers a perspective from a practicing attorney that is invaluable to our students and the law school community.

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In reviewing the total body of professional work and experience of Ms. Hodge, her many distinguished accomplishments demonstrate that she has the intellect, experience, and temperament to serve with excellence on the federal bench. I have no doubt that she will engage with all members of the legal community in a way that promotes collegiality and the effective and impartial resolution of legal issues and disputes.

In short, I am confident that Kelley Hodge would be a wonderful addition to the federal bench. Respectfully, I urge the Committee to promptly review and advance her nomination, so the full Senate can promptly confirm her to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kimberly J. Robinson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Kimberly Jenkins Robinson