



August 31, 2022

Senator Richard Durbin, Chairman  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
Hart Senate Office Building, SH-711  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Charles Grassley, Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
Hart Senate Office Building, SH-135  
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: WSAJ Support for Jamal Whitehead's Appointment to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington**

Dear Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

The Washington State Association for Justice (WSAJ) writes in strong support of Jamal Whitehead for appointment to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington. Mr. Whitehead's professional experience and commitment to justice for all make him an excellent choice for federal judge.

WSAJ is a civil justice advocacy organization; our mission is safeguarding the constitutional right to a jury trial. We believe that the right of trial by jury is a foundation of our democracy and that the courthouse doors must remain open so that all individuals—regardless of their resources—have the same access to justice. While Jamal Whitehead has served in various roles as an attorney and advocate, regardless of whether he defended organizations, represented civil rights plaintiffs, or worked on behalf of the government, he has been a protector of equal right to access to justice.

Mr. Whitehead has extensive litigation experience—particularly in federal court. After working several years as a litigator in private practice, he spent four years as a Senior Trial Attorney for the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission followed by two years as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Washington. Mr. Whitehead currently works in private practice where his focus areas include employment law and complex class actions. His work as an attorney for the federal government—both at the EEOC and the Department of Justice—gave him considerable experience litigating in federal court. His continued work in employment and civil rights law has allowed Mr. Whitehead to practice in both federal and state courts. In addition to his legal practice, Mr. Whitehead has served on the Executive Board of the Federal Bar Association.



It is critical that our judicial officers have a deep understanding of not only the law, but also the courtroom. Mr. Whitehead’s 15 years of trial experience, including jury trials of significance, as well as his broad experience litigating complex lawsuits, make him an excellent choice for appointment to the U.S. District Court.

Mr. Whitehead also brings with him a dedication to protection of civil rights and access to justice. His most recent work has focused on advocating for individuals who are disadvantaged by a power imbalance—for example, workers who have been subjected to race, disability, or sex discrimination and retaliation. These cases are both challenging and of deep societal importance. Through his work advancing civil rights, Mr. Whitehead has continuously committed himself to ensuring that every individual has the opportunity to seek justice in a system that is intended to serve everyone equally.

Mr. Whitehead has the exact experience and commitment to justice that we as an organization and members of the legal community want to see on the bench. The WSAJ enthusiastically supports his appointment the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gregory E. Price".

Gregory E. Price  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan P. Roberts".

Nathan P. Roberts  
President-Elect

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth A. Hanley".

Elizabeth A. Hanley  
VP Judicial Relations