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September 30, 2022

**VIA EMAIL**

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck E. Grassley  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: Women's Bar Association's Endorsement of Hon. Todd Edelman for  
Judge, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia**

Dear Senator Durbin and Senator Grassley:

On behalf of the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia (WBA), I am writing to express our support for Judge Todd Edelman for the position of Judge on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

The WBA's mission is to maintain the honor and integrity of the legal profession; promote the administration of justice; and advance the interests of and promote the improvement of women lawyers. Our principal goal in endorsing judicial candidates is to ensure the appointment of qualified judges and, consistent with that goal, to increase the number of judges who support the mission of the WBA. For our recommendations, we consider the candidate's background, level of experience, connection to the District of Columbia, record of public service, commitment to the equality of all litigants, and attention to women's needs and concerns.

We evaluate each candidate for endorsement by reviewing his or her resume and other supporting documentation, and discussing the candidate's skills and character with references. We ask each reference specific questions

**Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia**  
2800 Eisenhower Avenue, Suite 210, Alexandria, VA 22314  
Phone: 202-639-8880 Fax: 202-639-8889  
Email: [admin@wbadc.org](mailto:admin@wbadc.org) Web: [www.wbadc.org](http://www.wbadc.org)

regarding the candidate's qualifications, integrity, temperament, experience, and commitment equal opportunity and equal justice under law.

Judge Edelman is an extraordinarily well-qualified candidate for a federal District Court judgeship. He has developed a unique blend of experience over his legal career, working in government, private practice, academia, and now as a judge. He has handled a wide variety of criminal, civil, and family law cases. He has served as a law clerk for Judge William B. Bryant on the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, an E. Barrett Prettyman Georgetown University Law Center Fellow, a Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia attorney, Of Counsel to Bredhoff & Kaiser PLLC, a clinical professor in the Georgetown Law Criminal Justice Clinic, and Superior Court Judge.

In the Superior Court, Judge Edelman served in the Civil Division, Domestic Violence Unit, and the Felony Branch of the Criminal Division. He is known for his ability to handle novel legal issues and complex trials and for the respectful manner in which he treats lawyers, *pro se* litigants, and other parties. During his two-year tenure in the Domestic Violence Unit, he demonstrated a strong commitment to women's needs and concerns. Advocates who appeared before him noted that he provided a fair, respectful, and efficient forum. Judge Edelman authored an authoritative written opinion that clarified an issue - the ability of a person whose partner destroys her property (rather than physically assaults her person) as a means of domination and control to obtain a civil protection order - of great concern to domestic violence victims and their advocates. He welcomed to his courtroom Georgetown Law's Domestic Violence Clinic's pilot project, which assists civil protection order petitioners in obtaining service of process. In a case of first impression, Judge Edelman upheld the constitutionality of the Sexual Abuse Statute of Limitations Amendment Act of 2018, which will afford victims of child sexual abuse an opportunity to pursue justice against their abusers.

In his recent appointment as Deputy Presiding Judge of the Superior Court's Civil Division, Judge Edelman assists with efforts to improve the fairness of the high-volume civil calendars, enhance access to justice for unrepresented and low-income litigants, and assist vulnerable citizens in dealing with the ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic. Judge Edelman's efforts in developing an eviction diversion program will reduce the number of eviction orders. As part of this effort, he served as co-leader of the White House Eviction Prevention DC Work Group, on the National Center for State Courts Eviction Diversion Cohort, and as a member of the Mayor's Rental Housing Market Strike Force. He currently co-chairs the Superior Court's Advisory Committee on Civil Rules, Small Claims Rules, and Landlord Tenant Rules; Civil Division Working Group on Virtual Trials, Landlord and Tenant Court, Small Claims, and Mortgage Foreclosure; and he is a member of the Judicial Education Committee, the Criminal Justice Act Implementation Committee, the Committee on Pro Bono and Affordable Counsel, and the Joint Standing Committee on Fairness and Access to the DC Courts. In 2020, he began serving on the National Institute of Standards and Technology Legal Resource Task Group of the Forensic Science Standards Board of the Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science (OSAC), which focused on science-based standards for forensic evidence.

Judge Edelman's body of work has demonstrated that he shares the WBA's commitment to public service and equal opportunity and equal justice under the law, and that he has the necessary skills and experience to be an outstanding District Court Judge. Throughout his career, Judge Edelman has shown a passion for teaching law students and for training young. Judge Edelman continues to teach at Georgetown Law and Harvard Law School Trial Advocacy Workshop. Additionally, he guest lectures at training sessions sponsored by the Washington Council of Lawyers, the Office of the United States Attorney, the Metropolitan Police Department, the Office of the Attorney General, the DC Volunteer Lawyers Project, DC Bar Sections, and other bar organizations. As an attorney, Judge Edelman served as lead counsel in approximately forty jury trials and dozens of bench trials, handled hundreds of civil and criminal cases, and appeared before federal judges, state judges, arbitrators, and administrative tribunals. As a judge, he has presided over more than 100 jury trials and hundreds of bench trials. Indeed, the WBA endorsed Judge Edelman's original application to the Superior Court in 2010 as well as his previous application for a position on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia (that nomination expired with the end of the 114th Congress).

For these reasons, the WBA is pleased to endorse Judge Todd E. Edelman for the position of United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Sincerely,



Candace Beck  
President

cc: Hon. Todd Edelman