

October 3, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chair, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Nomination of Anthony Devos Johnstone to the United States
Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

Anthony Devos Johnstone was our classmate at Yale College. We write to endorse his nomination. What we know of his character, temperament, and intellect convinces us that he will serve our country with skill and honor.

We defer to professional references to provide you with information on Anthony's qualifications as a lawyer and scholar. Instead, this letter offers our perspective on Anthony's character and principles, as demonstrated during the time of growth and challenge we shared in college.

Anthony's intelligence is wide-ranging and open-minded. At Yale, he explored academic interests ranging from philosophy to economics to geology and geophysics. His genuine curiosity and enthusiasm made him ready to engage with, learn from, and deeply consider the perspectives and traditions of scientists, political theorists, writers and architects. Anthony wrote for the school paper, led college tours, and acted in plays, always exhibiting integrity and a willingness to engage across difference with respect and humor. As a result, his social and intellectual circles led him to develop authentic friendships spanning the social and political spectrum.

In classroom and after-hours conversations, Anthony's engagement across topics was always thoughtful and grounded. He struck some of us as exceptionally mature – bringing a seriousness to his pursuits that stood out among classmates. In particular, he embodied a respect for institutions and established schools of thought, while recognizing flaws, imperfections, and the opportunity – indeed, the necessity – for improvement and evolution of those institutions. He has had a lifelong interest in the tension between preservation and change, which was unusual among 20-year olds, but strikes us as particularly suitable for a member of the federal judiciary.

Anthony's interest in understanding others made the process of exploring controversial ideas and even strongly held disagreements productive and positive. Anthony brings a humility and diffidence to his own ideas; he listens with a rare open-mindedness and considers fully the merits of positions held by

others. In fact, he seeks out those perspectives in a disciplined and principled way to test, develop, and strengthen his own opinions. We admire and appreciate this rare approach; it will make Anthony an effective public servant.

The process of reaching out and responding to classmates' support of Anthony underscores the respect he earned. Through a variety of associations and activities, serious and lighthearted, Anthony found ways to connect with the people signing this letter. We represent people from large metropolitan areas and small towns all around the country. Our racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds are diverse, as are our political affiliations. We agree without reservation, however, on Anthony's temperamental and intellectual suitability for this position of trust.

We recommend that he be confirmed. Thank you for your leadership, service, and consideration.

Kyle Ackerman '95 Los Angeles, CA	Aman P. Chaudhary Los Angeles, CA	Elspeth Gilmore Iannone '95 Hillsborough, CA
Jeannette Baez '95 Greenwich, CT	Shannon DeRouselle '95 Miami, FL	Karin Jacobson '95 Portland, OR
Alexandra Babanskyj Bak- Boychuk '95 Philadelphia, PA	Carl Elkin '95 Arlington, MA	Cale Jaffe '95 Charlottesville, VA
Bruce Barnett '94 Needham, MA	Jason Efstathiou '95 Boston, MA	Dave Karp '95 Miami, FL
Daniel Belin '95 Lexington, MA	Jeff Forster '95 Pittsburgh, PA	Alicia Kersten '95 Somerville, MA
Rebecca Bendick '94 Missoula, MT	Chester Gilmore '95 Anchorage, AK	Justin King '95 Yarmouth, ME
Mathew Beredo '94 Perrysburg, OH	Benjamin Gordon '95 Palm Beach, FL	Christen Suttle King '95 Yarmouth, ME
Jonathan M. Bock '95 Milwaukee, WI	Praveen Goyal '95 McLean, VA	Alex Krulic '96 Washington, DC
Benjamin Burdick '95 Boise, ID	Michael Hamblin '95 Glenview, IL	Lynne LaCascia '95 New York, NY
Susannah Carr '95 Seattle, WA	Kata Himes '95 Pittsburgh, PA	Laurie LaPorte '95 Cambridge, MA
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