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**Association of the
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The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Karen M. Williams to the District Court for
the District of New Jersey

Dear Honorable Senators:

I write as the President of the Association of the Federal Bar of New Jersey to express the Association's strong support for the confirmation of Karen M. Williams to serve as a United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

Karen Williams has served the District of New Jersey as a magistrate judge for twelve years. Her experience on the bench makes her perfectly suited to fill this critical vacancy in the District of New Jersey.

As a magistrate judge in the District of New Jersey, Judge Williams fills a vital role in the day-to-day management of litigation matters. On the civil side, she addresses the full spectrum of non-dispositive issues before the court including, case management, discovery disputes, and alternative dispute resolution. Magistrate Judge Williams also handles an array of criminal proceedings, including initial appearances and bail hearings.

Since Magistrate Judge Williams took the bench, she has implemented a practical and thoughtful approach to the management of litigation. In light of the significant caseload shouldered by the judges in this District, the bench is in need of efficient, fair, and practical jurists who can ensure that the objectives set forth in Rule 1 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, which aspire to provide "just, speedy, and inexpensive determination" of proceedings, are met.

Magistrate Judge Williams meets and exceeds this directive on a daily basis. She has proven herself to be a practical and effective magistrate judge; her understanding and application of the Rules ensures that all litigants appearing before her have the opportunity to discover and present their case. Magistrate Judge Williams also has a wonderfully personable approach with litigants and lawyers and she is extremely effective at facilitating settlements. In sum, her experience on the bench over the last twelve years will prove invaluable for her continued service as an Article III judge.

Magistrate Judge Williams is committed to the bench and the bar in this District. She serves as an active member of the Advisory Board for the Association. Judge Williams zealously contributes to AFBNJ programs, routinely attends meetings, and serves as a panelist on CLE programs.

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Judge Williams has also been instrumental in the District Court's Re-Entry program in the Camden Courthouse. The program is designed to help recently released federal inmates re-integrate successfully into society. Judge Williams dedicates hours of her time to this program assisting these individuals in getting a fresh start, which has a positive impact not only on their lives but on their families as well.


For these reasons, the Association provides its unfettered endorsement in support of Magistrate Judge Williams's confirmation to serve as a District Court Judge.

I extend my personal endorsement as well. As a practitioner with more than 20 years of litigation experience before the District Court in the District of New Jersey, and a former law clerk to District Judge Garrett E. Brown, Jr., I have the familiarity and perspective to personally attest that Magistrate Judge Williams has the perfect temperament and work ethic that make her very well-qualified to serve as an Article III jurist. I practice regularly in the Camden Courthouse and I have had the pleasure of appearing before Judge Williams in a number of my cases. I can say confidently that litigants and lawyers alike appreciate her candor, demeanor, and practical approach to litigation.

It is also notable that Judge Williams would be filling the vacancy left by the Honorable Jerome B. Simandle, U.S.D.J. Judge Simandle left behind a legacy of thoughtful decisions, which considered not only the law but the litigants as well. Judge Williams will carry that same fair and well-balanced approach as a District Judge. She will honor his memory well.

Magistrate Judge Williams possesses an enviable mix of practicality, fairness, frankness, decisiveness, and intelligence. As such, she is an excellent choice to serve the lawyers and litigants in the District of New Jersey.

Very respectfully yours,



KERRI E. CHEWNING
President