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DECEMBER 4, 2022

Washington, DC 20510

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

Re: Support for Judge Charnelle Bjelkengren's Appointment to the Eastern District Of Washington Bench

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

I write this letter in my capacity as a retired member of the Spokane County Superior Court bench, in support of Judge Charnelle Bjelkengren's nomination to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington. Judge Bjelkengren appeared before me numerous times when she was an attorney with the Washington State Office of the Attorney General. I have also had the opportunity to observe her in the Spokane legal community and the community at large over a period of years.

In all my interactions with Judge Bjelkengren I found her to be courteous, thoughtful, and possessed of high intelligence and a keen legal mind. In the courtroom she was always well-prepared, professional, and respectful to all participants, whether they be her client, or opposing counsel or party. As an attorney she enjoyed the highest of reputations, always met deadlines, and communicated effectively and efficiently with the Court and the Court's staff. She has a reputation for collegiality and a strong work ethic.

I believe her reputation among attorneys and the bench to be impeccable, and strongly encouraged Judge Bjelkengren to apply for appointment to the Spokane County Superior Court, believing she would make an outstanding judge. She has certainly lived up to that expectation. That bench has had a number of retirements in the past few years and Judge Bjelkengren, though a relatively new judge, has emerged as a thoughtful, measured leader.

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Importantly, Judge Bjelkengren has a collaborative, patient and positive personality that lends itself to creating a collegial work atmosphere, and embodies the personality traits, ethics, and moral compass, as well as legal skills, that one hopes to find in a member of any bench. I wholeheartedly recommend Judge Bjelkengren for appointment to the District Court Bench in the Eastern District of Washington. This would be an appointment to be proud of and that would well serve the community and the country.

Sincerely,

Hon. Tari S. Eitzen, ret.
Spokane County Superior Court