September 19, 2026

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Re: Nomination of Samuel D. Adkisson to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee**

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

We are former law clerks to Judge Gregory G. Katsas of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. We write to enthusiastically support the nomination of Samuel D. Adkisson—a fellow Katsas clerk—to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee.

Sam has had an impressive legal career. After graduating from Yale Law School, he clerked for Judge Amul Thapar of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, Judge Katsas, and Chief Justice John Roberts. Sam then served as a trial lawyer at two of the country's leading litigation firms. From there, he reentered public service and has served as an attorney in the White House Counsel's Office.

Our connections to Sam are varied. Some of us were lucky enough to clerk alongside him. Some of us attended law school with him. Several of us worked with Sam in private practice on a variety of high-stakes litigation matters. And all of us know him through our shared affiliation as former Katsas clerks. Regardless of the context, Sam has left an enduring impression of legal brilliance, good nature, and consistent competence.

We come from varied backgrounds and hold a broad spectrum of legal and philosophical views, having served in numerous public and private capacities throughout our careers. We all agree, without reservation, that Sam has the

intellectual ability, judicial temperament, commitment to the rule of law, professional experience, and sound judgment to serve with distinction as a federal judge. Throughout his career, he has consistently demonstrated thoughtful legal analysis, vigorous advocacy on behalf of his clients, and genuine collegiality toward those with whom he works. Notwithstanding his impressive intellectual gifts, Sam is humble and always open to hearing the views of others, including those who may disagree with him. Outside the office, Sam is a devoted friend and his dedication to his family is unmatched.

In short, we believe Sam is exceptionally qualified to serve as a federal judge and urge the Senate to confirm him without delay. We are grateful for the opportunity to convey our views to the Committee and stand ready to furnish any additional information that might be helpful to its deliberations.

Respectfully,

JOHN C. BRINKERHOFF JR.
Law Clerk, 2020–2021

JOHN S. ACTON
Law Clerk, 2023–2024

JAMES ALTSCHUL
Law Clerk, 2024–2025

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Law Clerk, 2022–2023

JEREMY BROGGI
Law Clerk, 2017–2018

REID E. COLEMAN
Law Clerk, 2022–2023

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Law Clerk, 2021–2022

CHRISTOPHER C. GOODNOW
Law Clerk, 2018–2019

STEPHEN J. HAMMER
Law Clerk, 2019–2020

TAYLOR C. HOOGENDOORN
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THOMAS E. HOPSON
Law Clerk, 2020–2021

ELISE KOSTIAL
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CAROLINE COOK LINDSEY
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Law Clerk, 2020–2021

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Law Clerk, 2021–2022

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Law Clerk, 2022–2023

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SEANHENRY VANDYKE
Law Clerk, 2022–2023

MICHAEL ZARIAN
Law Clerk, 2020–2021