PRESIDENT NELSON BÁEZ PRESIDENT-ELECT JENNIFER DINETZ TREASURER TIM FELICE SECRETARY KATHERINE KIZIAH IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT CHRIS KELLER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHELLEY BAKER



WOMEN'S CAUCUS CHAIR RACHEL BENTLEY PARALEGAL REP APPOINTEE HANK VAN WIERINGEN YOUNG LAWYER APPOINTEE WILLIAM SEPULVEDA BOARD MEMBERS ANDREW HARRIS DJ WARD BYRNES GUILLAUME MATT CHRIST GREG CUMMINGS DESTINY BARBOSA KRISTIAN BIE TIMOTHY KENISON TRENT SWIFT AARON CLEMENS PAUL DOZIOS JEFFREY MARTZ PAUL SHALHOUB SHANA NOGUES

June 18, 2025

Senator Chuck Grassley Chair, Judiciary Committee

Senator Dick Durbin Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee

c/o U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

## Re: Letter in Support of Judge Edward L. Artau's Nomination to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida

Dear Senators Grassley and Durbin:

On behalf of the Palm Beach County Justice Association (PBCJA), an organization of more than 500 trial attorneys in Palm Beach County, Florida, we write to express our strong support for the nomination of Judge Edward L. Artau to serve on the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. Judge Artau currently serves as an appellate judge on Florida's Fourth District Court of Appeal and previously served as a trial judge on the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Court in and for Palm Beach County from 2014 to 2020. In our experience, he earned a reputation as a fair and just jurist who worked diligently to ensure that all parties had meaningful access to the courts. This approach aligns with PBCJA's core mission of "*fight[ing] for fair access to the courts for all*," and we believe Judge Artau exemplifies that principle through his judicial service.

Judge Artau's background and qualifications are exemplary. He is a lifelong Floridian who achieved academic distinction, earning his B.S. degree (cum laude) from Nova Southeastern University and his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center. Before joining the bench, Judge Artau worked as an attorney at respected law firms in the area and focused on civil litigation. He also served as General Counsel of the South Florida Water Management District, where he gained valuable experience in government service and complex regulatory matters. This blend of private and public-sector experience has given Judge Artau a well-rounded perspective on the law and the ability to understand the real-world impacts of judicial decisions.

Since his appointment to the state bench in 2014, Judge Artau has served the people of Florida with distinction. As a Circuit Judge in the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit (our local trial court), he capably handled a broad range of cases and was even entrusted with assignments in the Juvenile Division, addressing some of the most sensitive matters in our justice system. In 2020, he was elevated to the Fourth District Court of Appeal, where he continues to serve with honor. Many of our members who have appeared before Judge Artau at the trial court level and at the appellate court level uniformly describe him as an impartial adjudicator who applies the law thoughtfully and treats all participants with respect. He has been committed to maintaining a courtroom where every party – plaintiff or defendant, civil or criminal, represented or pro se – receives a fair hearing on the merits.

As members of Palm Beach County's civil justice community, we also take pride in Judge Artau's personal background and longstanding ties to South Florida. Judge Artau is the son of Cuban immigrants, and his success in the legal field exemplifies the diverse heritage that enriches our state and our nation's judiciary. He has spent virtually his entire career serving the people of Florida, and his story reflects the idea that with hard work, dedication, and fairness, a first-generation American can rise to the highest levels of public service in our courts. The Palm Beach County Justice Association values diversity and inclusion in the pursuit of justice, and we believe Judge Artau's perspective will be a positive addition to the federal bench.

In short, Judge Artau's proven commitment to fairness and ensuring access to justice for all aligns perfectly with the values that organizations like ours hold dear. We are confident that he will uphold the rule of law and protect the rights of all litigants who come before him, just as he has done throughout his state judicial career. The Palm Beach County Justice Association enthusiastically endorses Judge Artau's nomination to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. We respectfully urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to favorably report his nomination, and we encourage the full Senate to promptly confirm Judge Artau as a U.S. District Court Judge.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide any further information in support of this outstanding nominee.

Sincerely,

MIES

Nelson E. Baez, Esq. Palm Beach County Justice Association President