

September 8, 2026

Members of the United States Senate
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Re: Nomination of the Honorable Richard W. Bennett to the United States
District Court for the Southern District of Texas**

Dear Senators:

We write in strong support of the nomination of the Honorable Richard W. Bennett to serve as a United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.*

We are former colleagues of Judge Bennett from the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas, where we worked with him as federal prosecutors over many years. We come from different political backgrounds and do not always share the same views. But we are united in our conviction that Judge Bennett has the judgment, integrity, intellect, and temperament to serve the Southern District of Texas with honor and distinction.

That conviction rests on firsthand experience. We saw Judge Bennett approach difficult matters with rigor, sound judgment, and an unwavering commitment to doing justice. He worked hard, mastered the facts and the law, and followed them wherever they led. He treated colleagues, opposing counsel, law-enforcement officers, witnesses, and defendants with fairness and respect. Even under pressure, he remained steady, measured, and guided by principle rather than expedience. Those qualities made him an exceptional prosecutor. They are also the qualities our federal courts require of a judge.

We also know Judge Bennett as more than an excellent lawyer and dedicated public servant. He is a person of deep faith and an unwavering commitment to his family. The integrity, humility, and sense of responsibility that define his personal life are equally evident in his professional work.

* We write strictly in our individual capacities and not on behalf of our respective employers or organizations.

When the judges of the Southern District of Texas selected Judge Bennett to serve as a United States Magistrate Judge, the United States Attorney's Office lost an outstanding prosecutor. But the Court gained exactly the kind of judge we knew he would become. Since taking the bench, Judge Bennett has confirmed our judgment. He has brought to his judicial service the same preparation, work ethic, even temperament, and commitment to the rule of law that distinguished his years as a prosecutor.

Judge Bennett knows the Southern District of Texas, its bar, and the substantial demands of its docket. More importantly, he understands that the authority of a federal judge must be exercised with independence, humility, and fidelity to the law. We are confident that, if confirmed, he will approach every matter before him fairly, carefully, and without regard to personal preference.

We respectfully urge the Senate to confirm Judge Bennett's nomination. Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Very respectfully,

Andrew Gould
Former Assistant United States Attorney

Jessica Akins
Former Assistant United States Attorney

Mark E. Donnelly
Former Executive Assistant United States Attorney & Senior Advisor to the United States Attorney

Abdul Rahman Faruki
Former Special Assistant United States Attorney

Alamdard Hamdani
Former United States Attorney

Ralph E. (Ted) Imperato
Former First Assistant United States Attorney

Cedric Joubert
Former Assistant United States Attorney

John M. Lewis
Former Assistant United States Attorney

Anna E. Kalluri
Former Assistant United States Attorney

Kenneth Magidson
Former United States Attorney

Steven Mellin
*Former Deputy Chief & Former Capital
Case Section Trial Attorney*

Quincy L. Ollison
Former Assistant United States Attorney

Ryan Patrick
Former United States Attorney

Sherri L. Zack
Former Assistant United States Attorney