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September 1, 2026

Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Recommendation Letter for United States Magistrate Judge Richard W. Bennett

To The Honorable Chairman Chuck Grassley and Ranking Member Dick Durbin,

I have known Richard "Rick" Bennett for over 30 years. I have known him as a law clerk for Magistrate Judge Crone and then United States District Court Judge Crone; I have known him as a prosecutor in Galveston County, an Assistant United States Attorney, defense counsel, and as United States Magistrate Judge. I unequivocally recommend Judge Bennett to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

I have been practicing criminal defense for 30 years, often on the other side of the "v." from Judge Bennett. Here the last several years appearing before Judge Bennett in his court. As an advocate and as a judge, Judge Bennett has always been firm but fair. His demeanor and respect for and towards other attorneys and defendants is fitting of his nomination to the Federal Bench.

I have known Judge Bennett as a fierce competitor; I have seen him work hard to be prepared and ready for whatever task that is put in front of him. I have also seen compassion in him that comes from his own life experiences.

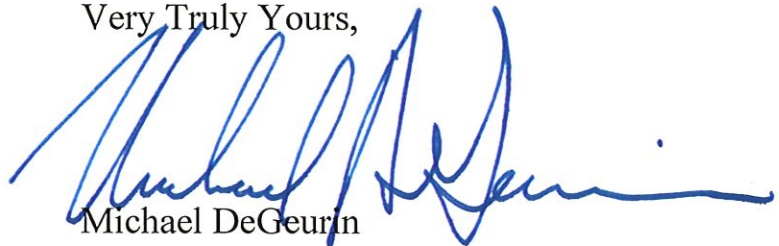
There are lawyers that are meant to be defense attorneys and prosecutors and there are lawyers that are meant to be judges. Sometimes they are one and the same and sometimes not. There are many prosecutors that I respect, that have no business behind the bench. I have appeared in front of hundreds of judges from all

around the country, state, and county, having the right intellect with right demeanor and sense of fairness is rare. Judge Bennett is one of those rare judges.

As I write my recommendation for Judge Bennett, I am reminded of the Stoic Virtues- *Wisdom, Courage, Temperance, and Justice*. There is no doubt Judge Bennett has the *Wisdom*- He has put in the work, he has the credentials, and he has the intellect. There is no doubt he has the *Courage*- He has the fortitude to stand up to what he thinks is fair, the courage to stand by the decisions and defend what he believes to be right. There is no doubt he has the *Temperance*- He has the demeanor and the patience; his courtroom is reflective of that. Finally, there is no doubt that Judge Bennett possesses the virtue of *Justice*- This is taking the *Wisdom, Courage, and Temperance* and effectuating them into action, to due process, to a just and fair outcome for those who appear before him.

I without hesitation believe that Judge Bennett should be elevated to the United States District Court as an Article III judge. He will serve with the distinction and honor befitting the office.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael DeGeurin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael DeGeurin