

June 23, 2025

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley

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

The Honorable Richard Durbin

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

Re: Letter of Support for Emil J. Bove III – Nomination to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals

Dear Chairman Grassley, Ranking Member Durbin, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I write in strong and unequivocal support of **Emil J. Bove III's** nomination to serve on the United States Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

I have had the privilege of working closely with Emil across multiple chapters of federal service—in some of the most demanding roles within our justice system. From national security investigations on the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) to high-stakes international prosecutions in the Southern District of New York (SDNY), Emil has consistently demonstrated the qualities we need most in a federal judge: razor-sharp legal intellect, unshakeable integrity, and genuine humanity. Emil is, in every sense, a quiet force of justice.

I first met Emil during our early careers on the JTTF in New York in 2013. I was an FBI Special Agent assigned to international terrorism matters, and Emil was a prosecutor at SDNY. Even then, it was clear he stood apart—not only for his exceptional legal acumen, but for his unwavering commitment to the mission and to the people around him. He brought clarity to complex legal frameworks under intense operational pressure. What made Emil truly exceptional was his instinctive collaboration—always ready to assist JTTF agents, regardless of whether he was assigned to the case. I'll never forget how he'd take over any cubicle within the JTTF to be available, sometimes all day—always open, always welcoming, always pushing the mission forward. His selflessness wasn't performative; it was genuine—a defining quiet leadership that elevated everyone around him and helped shape the culture at SDNY and the JTTF.

Years later, I had the opportunity to work alongside Emil again as a federal prosecutor in SDNY. Together we handled cases involving international terrorism, sanctions evasion, and diplomatic sensitivities—among them, the intricate “gas-for-gold” investigation into Iranian sanctions violations through Turkish intermediaries. Even after he transitioned from that investigation, Emil remained a trusted partner, helping guide us through classified evidence, diplomatic concerns, and legal complexities, no matter what time or day it was, or how busy he was on other high-profile matters. His judgment was invaluable; his presence, steadying. Colleagues across the office turned to him not only for legal insight but for his calm, principled leadership – a steady hand in the storm.

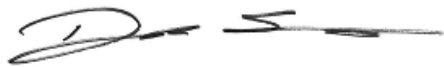
What sets Emil apart is not just his expertise, but his presence—steady, generous, and unshakably kind. I vividly remember moments when the intensity of SDNY could feel overwhelming. In those times, Emil was a grounding force: generous with his time, humble in his interactions, and deeply respectful of others. Just like his presence with the JTTF agents, he never made anyone feel lesser for not knowing something—only empowered to learn and grow. All prosecutors who worked with Emil became stronger. Many of us were honored with DOJ and other awards in the years that followed. For me—and for many others—I knew that behind those recognitions were the quiet, steady hands of colleagues like Emil. He didn't just support individuals; he helped carry our office, and our country, through complex and often unseen challenges. His impact on those around him is lasting.

That same character was evident again after I moved to the District of New Jersey as a federal prosecutor—during the horrific 2020 attack on Judge Esther Salas and her family, a moment forever etched in our memories. In the chaotic early hours of the investigation, Emil—unprompted—called to offer SDNY's full support upon learning I was leading the response. He didn't ask about jurisdiction or recognition. He simply asked: *What do you need?* In that moment, Emil exemplified leadership without ego—focused solely on the mission and the people impacted. His only concern was that justice be served swiftly and with care. He understood instinctively how to balance operational urgency with the legal precision required to preserve future prosecutions. In a culture and profession where quiet integrity is too often overlooked, Emil exemplified it. That moment, to me, is among the clearest indicators of the kind of judge he will be—decisive, compassionate, and unwaveringly ethical.

Throughout every chapter of our professional relationship, Emil has embodied the highest ideals of public service and the core qualities we seek in a federal judge: discerning judgment, deep legal expertise grounded in humility, composure under pressure, and an unwavering commitment to justice. In short, Emil is the embodiment of judicial excellence rooted in character. Since our early days on the JTTF, Emil has not only earned my professional respect—he has earned my personal admiration. I know I am far from alone in that view.

I respectfully urge the Committee to give his nomination full and favorable consideration. Emil Bove will serve with distinction—and our judiciary, and our nation, will be stronger for it.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Sovolos', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dean C. Sovolos

Former Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Former Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, Southern District of New York
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey