

September 12, 2025

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 David Bragdon to the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina**

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

We are former law clerks to the Honorable Clarence Thomas, and we write solely in our personal capacities to express our strong support for the nomination of David Bragdon, who has been nominated to serve as a federal judge on the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina.

David is extraordinarily gifted and accomplished. He graduated summa cum laude from Campbell University and received his Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia School of Law, where he served on the Virginia Law Review. After law school, David clerked for Judge Stephen Williams of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, and then for Associate Justice Clarence Thomas of the U.S. Supreme Court. After clerking, David started as an Assistant United States Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of North Carolina, where he has worked ever since. During his tenure at the Department of Justice, David served the United States as a Resident Legal Advisor to the Philippines in Manila from 2017 to 2021. Since 2021, David has served as the Appellate Chief in the U.S. Attorney's Office, where he has been responsible for briefing and arguing countless appeals to the Fourth Circuit. Throughout David's time in public service, he has represented the United States in all manner of criminal and civil cases in federal district courts and appellate courts.

At every juncture of David's career, he has chosen paths that reflect a sincere commitment to public service. But as impressive as David's outstanding resume and his record of public service have been, they do not tell the full story of David. Having had the privilege of knowing David, we have witnessed firsthand David's formidable intellect, tireless work ethic, and unwavering dedication to the rule of law. David is the epitome of thoughtfulness and humility in his approach to others and in his consideration of complex legal issues. He approaches legal arguments with care, rigor, and precision—qualities that will serve the people of North Carolina and the federal judiciary with great distinction.

For these reasons, we strongly support David Bragdon's nomination and urge the Senate to confirm him without delay.

Respectfully,

Matthew W. Sawchak (D.C. Circuit 1990)  
Saikrishna Prakash (October Term 1994)  
Michael O'Neill (October Term 1996)  
Nicole Stelle Garnett (October Term 1998)  
Patrick L. O'Daniel (October Term 1998)  
Steven T. Cottle (October Term 1999)  
Kate Comerford Todd (October Term 2000)  
Jennifer K. Hardy (October Term 2004)  
Henry Whitaker (October Term 2004)  
John M. Hughes (October Term 2005)  
Ashley E. Johnson (October Term 2005)  
John D. Adams (October Term 2006)  
Adam M. Conrad (October Term 2006)  
Brandt Leibe (October Term 2006)  
Heath P. Tarbert (October Term 2007)  
Claire J. Evans (October Term 2008)  
Patrick Strawbridge (October Term 2008)

Marah Stith McLeod (October Term 2009)  
Brian P. Morrissey (October Term 2009)  
Elbert Lin (October Term 2010)  
Robert Dunn (October Term 2012)  
Brian D. Schmalzbach (October Term 2013)  
Katherine C. Yarger (October Term 2013)  
Jennifer B. Dickey (October Term 2014)  
Brinton Lucas (October Term 2014)  
Haley Proctor (October Term 2014)  
Andrew N. Ferguson (October Term 2016)  
Kasdin Mitchell (October Term 2016)  
Gilbert C. Dickey (October Term 2017)  
Christopher C. Goodnow (October Term 2021)  
Ryan Proctor (October Term 2024)  
Thomas Wilson (October Term 2024)