

March 19, 2025

Via Email

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Chairman
The Honorable Richard Durbin, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nomination of Brett A. Shumate as Assistant Attorney General (Civil Division)

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

The undersigned partners at Wiley Rein LLP write to share our perspective as former colleagues of Brett Shumate, presently nominated by the President to serve as the next Assistant Attorney General (“AAG”) for the Civil Division at the U.S. Department of Justice. We share below our experiences with Brett, and respectfully urge his confirmation.

Brett was a summer associate at Wiley Rein and spent the early years of his legal career after his federal clerkship as an Associate at the firm. He was easily elected to our partnership, where he served until his prior service at the Department of Justice. While at Wiley, we saw Brett distinguish himself in numerous ways that demonstrate that he possesses the experience, skills, temperament and character to well and faithfully perform the important duties of the office to which he has been nominated.

First, and critical to the position that he would assume if confirmed, Brett proved himself to be a skilled litigator and manager of complex cases and legal issues. He gained deep experience with administrative law, Constitutional issues, and the sort of complex federal disputes that he will manage at the Department. He also provided sound advice in counseling matters that helped avoid litigation, demonstrating that he will be a strong advisor within the Department both to senior leadership and the agencies that he and his team will represent in administrative and civil matters.

Second, Brett’s work ethic shows he will be an effective AAG. While at Wiley, in addition to his substantial caseload for paying clients, Brett took on pro bono representations, which required substantial investments of time, both to help less fortunate individual litigants and gain extra court experience. Brett never shied away from the hard work and long hours needed to ensure zealous representation of all of his clients, as well as his own professional development. And he did all this while parenting a growing family with which he was actively involved.

Third, Brett proved himself a thoughtful leader in firm recruiting, professional development, and associate mentoring. Many of us had occasion to work with Brett to identify and cultivate talent at the firm, and Brett regularly sought out opportunities to help peers and subordinates develop as attorneys. This experience and his prior service as the lead official overseeing the Civil Division’s Federal Programs Branch, supervising over 110 attorneys, have prepared him to manage the Civil Division as AAG.

Fourth, Brett demonstrated impeccable ethics and integrity. Brett could be counted on to handle complex situations with care and attention to his ethical obligations and duties to his clients and colleagues. He is thoughtful, honest, and trustworthy.

Based on our experience working with Brett over many years, we are honored to commend him to the U.S. Senate for the important role to which he has been nominated.

The undersigned attorneys respectfully submit this for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us for additional information.

Thank you,

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