October 29, 2026

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman, SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Ranking Member, SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Gregory Todd Butler, Nominee for Circuit Judge
United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

We, the undersigned former Chairs of the Appellate Practice Section of the Mississippi Bar, submit this letter in support of the nomination of Gregory Todd Butler to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

It is our unanimous belief that Todd has the integrity, temperament, and intelligence to serve as a Fifth Circuit Judge.

A mandatory association, the Mississippi Bar contains Sections devoted to particular areas of practice. As set out in its Bylaws, "the purpose of the Appellate Practice Section is to promote the skillful, efficient and effective practice of appellate law and oral advocacy before our appellate courts." While this letter comes from each of us individually, rather than from the Bar or its Section, all of us firmly believe that Todd embodies those lofty ideals.

The Appellate Practice Section was founded in 2012, and Todd was part of the group of lawyers who helped create it. In the inaugural meeting he was chosen as a member-at-large. In the following years, Todd served as Secretary, Vice-Chair, and ultimately Chair, and completed his active leadership as Immediate Past-Chair.

Throughout this time to the present day, Todd has modeled the ideals of the Appellate Practice Section. As a former law clerk for Judge Leslie Southwick of the Fifth Circuit, Todd began his legal career working within the federal appellate courts. To that crucial early experience, he has added a wealth of skill and knowledge as counsel of record in over 70 appeals in state and federal court—many before the Fifth Circuit.

Todd has also presented 20 oral arguments before the federal and state appellate courts in Mississippi, the Fifth Circuit, and elsewhere, including a case before the South Carolina Court of Appeals. Recently, he argued before the United States Supreme Court. To present argument before a panel of appellate judges is the apex of appellate practice. Todd's measured and respectful approach has revealed his commitment to not just representing his clients, but also serving the Bench and the Bar with candor, precision, and skill.

Those of us who sign below have spent our careers seeking to uphold these ideals. So has Todd. Mississippi has a deep connection to the Fifth Circuit, and the Court has a history of distinguished service by Mississippi lawyers who became jurists. We can say with confidence that Todd, our colleague and former Section Chair, is an excellent choice to continue that tradition of service on the Fifth Circuit.

Respectfully,

John C. Henegan, Sr.
Chair, 2012-2013

Michael J. Bentley
Chair, 2013-2014

Margaret O. Cupples
Chair, 2015-2016

Amy L. Champagne
Chair, 2017-2018

Meta S. Copeland
Chair, 2018-2019

Kaytie M. Pickett
Chair, 2020-2021

Barbara Byrd
Chair, 2021-2022

Samuel D. Gregory,
Chair, 2022-2023

Simon T. Bailey
Chair, 2023-2024

Krissy C. Nobile
Chair, 2025-2026