R. Paul Williams, Esq.
Williams Newman Williams, PLLC
640 N State Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39202
paul@wnwlegal.com
(601) 949-3358

Roland F. Samson, III, Esq.
Salloum Law Firm, PLLC
1611 24th Avenue, Suite B
Gulfport, Mississippi 39501
skipper@salloumlawfirm.com
(228) 863-6727

November 2, 2026

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Re: Nomination of G. Todd Butler to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

Dear Senator Grassley and Senator Durbin:

We write to express our strong support for the nomination of G. Todd Butler to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and respectfully urge you to support his confirmation.

As long-time practicing litigation attorneys in Mississippi, we appreciate the substantial responsibility entrusted to the Fifth Circuit. Its decisions profoundly affect the administration of justice throughout Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. That responsibility makes it essential to appoint judges who demonstrate integrity, sound judgment, fairness, and fidelity to the Constitution and the rule of law.

We believe Todd would serve the court and public with distinction. In our view, he possesses the legal ability, temperament, and commitment to public service essential to the federal judiciary. His nomination merits your favorable consideration and support.

Our support of Todd is grounded in firsthand experience with his work as a neutral arbitrator. In 2018, we represented the claimant and respondent, respectively, in Lee Howard, Individually, and on Behalf of and for the Use and Benefit of the Wrongful Death Beneficiaries of Everett Howard v. Claiborne County Senior Care, LLC, a nursing home negligence case. By agreement of the parties and counsel, Todd was selected as arbitrator because of his well-known reputation for legal excellence, fairness, preparation, and professionalism. The case was factually and legally complex and hard fought. Before the hearing, Todd timely adjudicated our dispositive and non-dispositive motions with rulings that addressed the issues presented and followed established precedent. During the hearing, he handled issues involving fact witnesses with compassion, carefully evaluated the testimony of numerous physician experts, and meticulously addressed evidentiary objections involving witnesses and documentary evidence. After a 3-day

hearing involving eleven witnesses and voluminous medical records and expert materials, he timely issued his Arbitration Decision, finding for the claimant and against the nursing facility. Both of us regarded the decision as exceptionally well researched, supported, and drafted. Its thoroughness demonstrated the substantial time and care Todd devoted to getting the decision right.

The significance of our joint endorsement is that we represented opposing sides, yet both support Todd's confirmation even though his decision favored the claimant and was adverse to the nursing facility. Our shared confidence in his fairness and legal ability transcends the outcome for our respective clients.

Although our firsthand experience with Todd arose in arbitration rather than appellate proceedings, the qualities we observed bear directly on the work of an appellate judge: careful analysis of a complex record, disciplined application of established precedent, and clear, well-supported written reasoning. Having litigated cases between us for over 50 years, we can both say that we know a truly exceptional and special legal mind and talent when we see one. In our judgment, the qualities we so clearly observed in Todd during our arbitration proceeding would serve him well on the Fifth Circuit.

Our judicial system depends upon judges who approach each case with an open mind, treat litigants and counsel with respect, and decide matters impartially under the Constitution and applicable law. We are confident and have absolutely no reservation whatsoever that Todd would honor these responsibilities and make a meaningful contribution to the Fifth Circuit. Bottom line - the Fifth Circuit unquestionably deserves someone of Todd's character and legal ability, and Todd deserves the Fifth Circuit.

Thank you for your consideration of his nomination and for your service to our country. We respectfully urge you and your colleagues to vote to confirm G. Todd Butler to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Sincerely,

/s/ R. Paul Williams
R. Paul Williams, Esq.

/s/ Roland F. Samson, III
Roland F. Samson, III, Esq.