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April 22, 2024

VIA E-MAIL

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
Sarah_Bauer@judiciary-dem.senate.gov

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
Ryan_Giles@judiciary-rep.senate.gov

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
United States Senate
357 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Kaytlin_Lane@blackburn.senate.gov

The Honorable Bill Hagerty
United States Senate
251 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Clark_Milner@hagerty.senate.gov

Re: Letter in Support of Kevin Ritz

Dear Senators:

My wife, Dr. Elizabeth Mitchell, DDS, and I were discussing Mr. Kevin Ritz recent nomination and confirmation hearing and I thought I'd write to express my support for the nomination of Kevin to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

First a quick story that I hope captures Kevin in whole. When my wife graduated from dental school in the mid-2000s I asked Kevin in passing about his impressions of Charlottesville, Virginia as a possible location to start her dental practice, knowing he received both his undergraduate and law degree from the University of Virginia. Instead of just a quick comment, Kevin suggested that we meet for dinner and discuss the potential move in detail. Kevin was prepared! He researched many of the dental practices in the greater Charlottesville area, where Charlottesville was growing, and provided his opinions on potential neighborhoods to live. Kevin was obviously very enthusiastic about Charlottesville.

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But, by the end of the evening, Kevin ultimately sold us on remaining in Memphis. Kevin convinced us we could make a greater impact in Memphis as two young professionals. Thanks in part to Kevin, my wife and I have two thriving professional practices here in Memphis. We chose to start raising a family with two young boys in Memphis and are dedicated to making Memphis a better place to live through our professional, leadership, and volunteer activities. I look back on the dinner with Kevin, and I am grateful for his encouragement to stay in Memphis and make a difference.

Professionally, I have worked as an adversary of Kevin's for almost twenty years as a Criminal Justice Act Panel Attorney. If there is a single lawyer, whether an adversary or defense colleague, who deserves consideration for the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit it is Kevin Ritz. Kevin is thoughtful, insightful and a fearless advocate all the while espousing a civility and good humor which is often lost these days. He remains polite, gracious, collegial, and cordial. I have watched Kevin's practice evolve from trial attorney to Appellate Chief to United States Attorney in 2022. In my experience with Mr. Ritz, no matter how contentious the matter may be, Kevin is steadfast in approaching it on an even keel within the Rules and Codes of Ethics and cannons of collegial practice.

As a practicing attorney and knowing Kevin as I do, he has my wholehearted support for this position with United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Sincerely,



Charles S. Mitchell
CSM/klw