

February 27, 2018

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of John B. Nalbandian to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of John B. Nalbandian to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. John is uniquely and supremely qualified to serve on the Sixth Circuit. Indeed, I cannot think of a lawyer in this region who would have been a better choice.

John's qualifications to serve on this important court are evident. His education, his Fifth Circuit clerkship, his high-level appellate work at two prestigious law firms and his service to the community outside of work paint a picture of a highly successful, accomplished attorney worthy of selection to such a prestigious and important position.

But John's qualifications for this position go well beyond the impressive education and professional experience set forth in his resume. I have known John since 2000. Over 18 years, I have come to know John as a lawyer, a colleague and a friend. In that time, I have seen him exhibit the character traits that are shared by the best judges. John is highly intelligent. He is intellectually curious and well read, as evidenced by the breadth of topics on which he can speak intelligently and with ease. Even in a profession in which long hours are common, John stands out as hard-working. Beyond working heavy hours on the cases for which he is responsible, John often offers his knowledge and insight to colleagues who seek his advice on their own cases. (His colleagues seek him out, of course, both because of the quality of his insight and his willingness to share it.) John is careful, thorough and thoughtful in making decisions and in exercising judgment. John is trustworthy and a person of high integrity and character, both as a lawyer in service to his clients and as a

business partner and friend. Finally, John exhibits a professional and respectful demeanor to colleagues, adversaries, and the bench that meets the highest standard. In sum, in addition to being a highly qualified candidate “on paper,” John is the type of person and lawyer who will serve with distinction as a judge.

I am not alone among area lawyers in holding John in the highest regard. Through my service in volunteer positions at the Cincinnati Bar Association (which I was privileged to serve as its 124th President), the Ohio State Bar Association, the Cincinnati Academy of Leadership for Lawyers, Inn of Court and other lawyer-member organizations, I have come to know most if not all of the region’s most respected and experienced litigators and judges. Among that group, there has been no surprise at the announcement that John had been nominated for the privilege of serving on the Sixth Circuit. This is because all of the qualifications and character traits I have described are as recognized by those lawyers as they are by me.

Like all regular practitioners in our federal courts, I am interested in seeing lawyers appointed to judgeships who have the qualifications and high character necessary to serve in that difficult and critically important role. I have no doubt that John Nalbandian meets that criteria, and I am proud to offer my unqualified support for his nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric K. Combs", with a stylized, cursive script.

Eric K. Combs