

**NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA
FEDERAL COMMUNITY DEFENDERS, INC.**

Jerome T. Flynn
Executive Director

Reply to: **Hammond**

August 30, 2023

HAMMOND OFFICE

Attorneys

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The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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Re: Nomination of Magistrate Judge Joshua P. Kolar to the
United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

FORT WAYNE OFFICE

Attorney

Michelle F. Kraus

I respectfully submit this letter in support of the nomination of Magistrate Judge Joshua P. Kolar to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Since 2019, Magistrate Judge Kolar has been a judge in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana. Between 2007 and 2019, Judge Kolar was employed as a prosecutor with the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Indiana

I have been the Executive Director of the Northern District of Indiana Federal Community Defenders, Inc. since 2003 and an assistant defender since 2001. In this capacity, I have represented hundreds of criminal defendants. I have had the opportunity to personally defend many cases that Judge Kolar prosecuted during his time in the United States Attorney's office and have frequently appeared in his court while representing my clients. In addition, I supervise three lawyers in our Hammond office who have had similar, positive interactions with Judge Kolar in his capacity as a prosecutor and magistrate judge.

During the sixteen years I have known Judge Kolar, he has demonstrated an extraordinary legal mind that will be very well suited for the difficult legal issues that he will face as an appellate court judge. He has also exhibited excellent judicial temperament by treating lawyers and parties alike with respect and dignity. Judge Kolar has ensured that the criminal defendants who have appeared before him are treated fairly and with the presumption of innocence demanded by our Constitution.

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In addition to being an excellent judge and lawyer, Judge Kolar is a devoted citizen as reflected by his military service. As an intelligence officer in the United States Army Reserves, he deployed to Afghanistan for 11 months in 2014 and 2015. Judge Kolar's selfless service to country should be commended and strongly considered by the Judiciary Committee and the entire United States Senate.

For the past twenty-two years, I have interacted with numerous prosecutors and lawyers. I have also appeared before many of the judges presently on the bench in the United States District Court in the Northern District of Indiana and the Seventh Circuit. Without question, Judge Kolar is one of the best. He will be an extraordinary addition to the Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit if confirmed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. T. Flynn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "T".

Jerome T. Flynn
Executive Director