

May 15, 2026

Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Dick Durbin
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

We are former law clerks of Judge Sandra Ikuta of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and we write to offer our enthusiastic support for Benjamin Flowers, who has been nominated to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Several of us clerked alongside Ben and observed him closely during a formative period of his legal career; others have come to know him through our community of former clerks. We write—as colleagues who know his character, his intellect, and his commitment to the law—to convey our view that he will be an outstanding federal appellate judge.

Ben was already a formidable legal thinker when he arrived in chambers as a recent graduate from the University of Chicago Law School. It was clear from the outset that he was a highly focused, diligent colleague who grasped legal issues quickly and did not shy away from complexity. He brought a finely tuned attention to detail to every case on his docket, which spanned issues from habeas, to the Alien Tort Statute, to immigration, to Social Security disability appeals. His love for the law was genuine: indeed, while clerking, Ben read law review articles in his spare time—not because he had to, but because he truly enjoyed delving into the scholarship, engaging with the material, and developing his own views on the issues.

Equally notable was his dedication to his own development as a lawyer. Ben was a good writer when he arrived in chambers, but he was determined to become a great one. He worked at it deliberately—reading good writing wherever he could, taking feedback seriously, and pushing himself to sharpen every sentence. That combination of talent and discipline—rare in any profession—has been evident throughout his career since. The best-brief awards he received from both the Ohio State Bar Association and the National Association of Attorneys General, and his record of success before the Supreme Court of the United States and the en banc Sixth Circuit, among others, are the natural result of a lawyer who is continually striving to improve. We have no doubt he will bring that same ethos to his work on the bench.

Beyond his intellectual gifts, Ben was (and remains) a joy to work alongside. He is collegial, good-humored, and genuinely interested in the people around him. Ben has an impressive range of interests outside the law, and he approaches each of those subjects with the same characteristic

energy and depth. He is also unfailingly reliable and dedicated—he was invariably the first one into chambers each morning, already deep in work before the rest of us arrived. He modeled himself on Judge Ikuta, whom he deeply admired, and approached every case and issue as worthy of his full effort and attention.

Those of us who have known, worked with, or been mentored by Ben after his clerkship can likewise attest that he continues to embody these same traits and brings that same focus and energy to his other pursuits within and outside the law.

In short, Ben is brilliant, industrious, and deeply committed to the rule of law. We believe the Sixth Circuit will be fortunate to have Ben as one of its members and strongly support his confirmation.

Respectfully submitted,

Devin Anderson

Kuruvilla Olasa

Lauren Barnett

Alexander P. Robbins

Lauren Blas

J. Matthew Rice

Kyser Blakley

Alicia Shah

Jessica Culpepper

Mark Taticchi

Neal Mehrotra

Mike Weisbuch