

April 8, 2024

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510
c/o Sarah Bauer - Sarah_Bauer@judiciary-dem.senate.gov

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

Dear Chairman Durbin,

We, the signatories below, are former attorneys with the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Tennessee, who have worked with Kevin G. Ritz during his 17 years as an Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) prior to his appointment to the United States Attorney position. Working with him during various periods throughout his career as an AUSA provided us with a complete perspective of him as an attorney, a jurist, and a man. With this knowledge, we enthusiastically convey our unequivocal support for the nomination of Kevin G. Ritz to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

As former colleagues, we vouch for Kevin's high legal acumen and sound judgment. Kevin possesses a unique affinity for the law that we all admire. Whether we held a relationship with Kevin as a line-AUSA in the narcotics unit or in his leadership roles, each of us observed his ability to dissect and interpret the controlling legal issues. This skill was showcased in his oversight of the case *United States v. Castleman*, 134 S. Ct. 1405 (2014), that found its way before the United States Supreme Court. The guidance he offered at both the trial and appellate levels laid the foundation for success before the Supreme Court.

Castleman is just one of many cases where Kevin used his intellect and legal discernment to support his colleagues in pursuing justice. Working as a law clerk for the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and as a trial attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office's Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force exposed him to the human element involved with cases and equipped him to appropriately address related considerations in court filings. Kevin understands the value of treating everyone with dignity and respect, regardless of disagreement in opinion. Likewise, Kevin encourages others to assess cases with an open mind to adequately evaluate the

relevant factors that could influence the rulings. If confirmed, the patience and composure that Kevin has exhibited throughout his career as an attorney will follow him in this new role as he administers justice as dictated by the law.

In addition to his professional preparedness, Kevin's commitment to service and integrity distinguishes him as an ideal appointment to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Kevin has chosen to serve the United States his entire legal career - as a law clerk to the Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, a federal trial attorney, an Appellate Chief, and now as the United States Attorney. During his service in these roles, he prioritized upholding the rule of law without the influence of bias or self-promotion. This dedication to advancing the greater good allowed him to excel in leadership roles under presidents of both parties. It is no coincidence that Kevin's service has led to his nomination for a role dedicated to ensuring independence and integrity in administering justice to those it serves. Kevin's disposition and devotion to public service will allow him to interpret the law fairly and impartially to all who come before him.

For all these reasons, we unequivocally support this nomination and urge swift confirmation of Kevin G. Ritz to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Respectfully submitted,

For and on behalf of:

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