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November 14, 2025

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

The Honorable Richard Durbin, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary, United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nomination of Nicholas J. Ganjei to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation Nicholas Ganjei to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas. I am a civil-rights and federal criminal-defense attorney on the CJA Panel in New Mexico, and I know Nick from working across from him on a number of cases when he was at the U.S. Attorney's Office here. I specifically recall two intensively litigated cases against him: a Tenth Circuit appeal from a drug-trafficking conviction, and a district-level sex-trafficking case that had extensive pretrial-motions practice and then pled early on in the jury trial.

Nick was a well-known AUSA and had a reputation for being the smartest and hardest-working line prosecutor in the office. He had a laid-back demeanor, recognized the humanity of our clients, and was reasonable in plea negotiations, and as a result was widely respected among the defense bar.

Moving to my specific observations in the cases we had together: in the appeal, his briefing was among the strongest I have seen, and the case resulted in a published opinion affirming the convictions; in the trial, Nick handled the vast majority of the pretrial litigation, and turned around a number of motions, and robust and well-written responses to my motions, on very tight timelines (on several occasions, as I recall, within the same day). This was a very sensitive and tragic case, and I specifically recall Nick going out of his way to produce a large amount of material, even though he strenuously took the position (ultimately agreed to by the district court) that the materials were entirely inadmissible. The material was uncovered very close to trial, and he took his disclosure obligations to my client seriously even though he opposed the use of that information

at trial. He worked with me while a protective order was pending so that I would have the opportunity to litigate admissibility on my client's behalf. I was a less-experienced attorney at the time and did not fully appreciate the commitment this decision showed to honoring the prosecution's obligations under *Brady*—but now, several years and over a dozen jury trials later, I recognize how outstanding his conduct was. I frankly doubt that many would have put in the (clearly extensive amount of) time and effort expended to find them in the first place, especially so close to trial, which I think speaks to Nick's integrity as well as his work ethic.

I struggle to think of anything bad to say about Nick, and I think he will be an excellent judge. I am also a trial lawyer, and I strongly believe that—while I am sympathetic to the younger generations of lawyers who, in many places in America, have not been given the opportunity to go to trial—it is incredibly important to put people on the bench who have actually tried cases. Nick has done that and done it well, and this experience is both invaluable and irreplaceable.

I enthusiastically support Nick's nomination. Thank you for your time, and I am happy to answer any questions that you or your committee may have.

Very truly yours,

HARRISON & HART, LLC



Carter B. Harrison IV

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No enclosures