

April 20, 2026

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

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Nomination of Michael J. Hendershot to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

We write as current and former State Solicitors General to express our strong support for the nomination of Michael J. Hendershot to serve as a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio. From our service as the chief appellate advocates for our respective States, we have a unique perspective on the qualities necessary to excel in this role. Based on that experience, Michael's intellect, depth of experience, and steadfast commitment to the rule of law make him exceptionally well qualified.

State Solicitors' Offices are entrusted with handling their States' most complex and consequential litigation, often in high-stakes and fast-moving environments. Success in that role requires not only technical excellence, but also sound judgment, professionalism, and an unwavering dedication to the law. Michael has demonstrated all of those qualities throughout his distinguished career as Chief Deputy State Solicitor in the Ohio Attorney General's Office. In that capacity, he has argued forty cases before the Supreme Court of Ohio and has represented the State in critical matters at every level of the federal judiciary, including the Supreme Court of the United States and the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. His advocacy at the highest courts reflects both exceptional legal ability and the trust placed in him to handle matters of statewide and national importance.

Among his many responsibilities, Michael has litigated significant election-related cases on behalf of the State of Ohio, helping to defend the integrity and administration of the State's election laws

in high-stakes and time-sensitive disputes. These matters—often arising on compressed timelines and with substantial public consequence—require not only mastery of complex legal frameworks, but also sound judgment and clarity under pressure. Michael has consistently demonstrated those qualities.

His broader practice spans a wide range of complex constitutional and statutory issues, including significant matters involving the First Amendment, Double Jeopardy, sentencing, and RICO. His written advocacy has been widely recognized, including by the Ohio State Bar Association and the National Association of Attorneys General for outstanding briefing, and reflects the careful, precise approach to legal reasoning that is essential for judicial service.

Before his service in the Ohio Solicitor General’s Office, Michael practiced appellate and civil litigation at Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease LLP, where he helped lead significant constitutional litigation, including defending statewide tort-reform measures in the Supreme Court of Ohio. Earlier in his career, he served as a law clerk to Judge Jerry E. Smith of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and Justice Terrence O’Donnell of the Supreme Court of Ohio, experiences that further shaped his deep understanding of the judicial role.

Michael has also contributed to the legal profession through teaching and mentorship, including as an adjunct professor of appellate advocacy at The Ohio State University School of Law. These efforts reflect his commitment to the law and to the development of future lawyers.

Just as important as his credentials, Michael possesses the temperament essential for judicial service. He is deeply thoughtful, measured, and respectful. Those who have worked with him know him to be principled, fair-minded, and sincerely committed to reaching the right result under the law.

As his professional peers who have observed his work over many years, we express support for Michael’s nomination without reservation. We are confident that he will serve with distinction.

Sincerely,

Mathura J. Sridharan
Solicitor General of Ohio, 2025-present

A. Barrett Bowdre
Solicitor General of Alabama, 2025-present

Autumn Hamit Patterson
Solicitor General of Arkansas, 2025-present

Frederick R. Yarger
Solicitor General of Colorado, 2015-2018

David Dewhirst
Solicitor General of Florida, 2026-present

Theodore Wold
Solicitor General of Idaho, 2023

Thomas M. Fisher
Solicitor General of Indiana, 2005-2023

Eric Wessan
Solicitor General of Iowa, 2023-present

Matthew F. Kuhn
Solicitor General of Kentucky, 2021-present

Aaron Lindstrom
Solicitor General of Michigan, 2013-2019

Scott G. Stewart
Solicitor General of Mississippi, 2021-present

Christian B. Corrigan
Solicitor General of Montana, 2022-Present

Cody S. Barnett
Solicitor General of Nebraska, 2025-present

Philip Axt
Solicitor General of North Dakota, 2023-present

T. Elliot Gaiser
Solicitor General of Ohio, 2023-2025

Mithun Mansinghani
Solicitor General of Oklahoma, 2017-2022

Garry M. Gaskins, II
Solicitor General of Oklahoma, 2023-present

J. Matthew Rice
Solicitor General of Tennessee, 2024-present

Scott A. Keller
Solicitor General of Texas, 2015-2018

Judd E. Stone II
Solicitor General of Texas, 2021-2023

Aaron L. Nielson
Solicitor General of Texas, 2023-2025

Stanford Purser
Solicitor General of Utah, 2024-present

Michael R. Williams
Solicitor General of West Virginia, 2024-present