

May 28, 2025

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

(via email and USPS)

Re: Nomination of Whitney Downs Hermandorfer to the Sixth Circuit

Dear Senators Grassley and Durbin:

We are members of the George Washington University Law School faculty and are writing to express our support of Whitney Downs Hermandorfer's nomination to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Ms. Hermandorfer is a distinguished lawyer with excellent credentials. In addition to teaching law, many of us have substantial professional experience in private practice, government, and non-profit organizations where we regularly advocated for clients before the judiciary. Thus, we understand the importance of appointing highly qualified individuals to the bench. Ms. Hermandorfer has consistently performed at the highest level and demonstrated remarkable intellect, leadership, and humility. We do not all share the same judicial philosophy, and no doubt some of us disagree with aspects of hers, but we have no doubt that she possesses the requisite qualifications, judicial temperament, and impartiality to be an outstanding judge.

Ms. Hermandorfer attended GW Law School after obtaining her undergraduate degree from Princeton University, where she graduated magna cum laude and was Co-Captain of the Princeton Women's Varsity Basketball Team. After working for several years, she began law school where she quickly proved to be an exceptional student, earning over a 4.0 G.P.A. in her first year. In her second year, she earned an astounding G.P.A of over 4.2. In her third year, she achieved a perfect 4.33 G.P.A. by earning all A+s in graded courses—a feat virtually unheard of in school history. Not surprisingly, Ms. Hermandorfer graduated first (out of 419 students) in the Class of 2015, collecting almost all of the top academic awards given out at graduation. In addition, due to her remarkable kindness and professionalism, she was, in our recollection, universally liked and respected by her peers from across the ideological spectrum.

Ms. Hermandorfer's incredible academic achievement was all the more remarkable because she served as the Editor-in-Chief of the GW Law Review during her third year in law

school. The Review is a student-run journal, and the Editor-in-Chief is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the selection and production process—a job that takes at least 40 hours a week. Ms. Hermandorfer performed this role flawlessly, leading the journal by example and producing six issues of the highest quality legal scholarship on time. She was selected for this role by her student peers and their faith in her was fully vindicated by her outstanding performance.

Ms. Hermandorfer's post-graduation experiences are as impressive as her achievements in law school. She worked for several years at one of the top law firms in Washington, DC (Williams & Connolly) and clerked for four different judges at all three levels of the federal judiciary: Judge Richard Leon on the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, Judge Brett Kavanaugh on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, Justice Samuel Alito on the Supreme Court of the United States, and Justice Amy Coney Barrett on the Supreme Court of the United States. In addition, she has served in state government as the Director of the Strategic Litigation Unit in the Tennessee Attorney General's office.

To say the least, it is an extraordinary honor and accomplishment to clerk for a single member of the Supreme Court, and very few graduates have the privilege of clerking for more than one Justice. With Judge Kavanaugh's elevation to the high Court, Ms. Hermandorfer has clerked for one third of the Supreme Court's current members.

In sum, Whitney Hermandorfer is one of the finest graduates in the history of GW Law School and is well qualified to serve as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. We urge your Committee to approve her nomination.

Sincerely,

Michael Abramowicz
Oppenheim Professor of Law

Paul Schiff Berman
Walter S. Cox Professor of Law

Robert Brauneis
Michael J. McKeon Professor of Intellectual Property Law

Arturo J. Carrillo
Professor of Clinical Law

W. Burlette Carter
Professor Emerita of Law

Bradford R. Clark
William Cranch Research Professor of Law

Thomas Colby
John Theodore Fey Research Professor

Robert J. Cottrol
Harold Paul Green Research Professor of Law

Lawrence A. Cunningham
Henry St. George Tucker III Research Professor of Law Emeritus

Laura A. Dickinson
Lyle T. Alverson Professor of Law

Jack Harlan Friedenthal
Howrey Professor Emeritus of Trial Advocacy, Litigation, and Professional Responsibility

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Laird Kirkpatrick
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Laurie S. Kohn
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Global Competition Professor of Law and Policy

Renée Lettow Lerner
Donald Phillip Rothschild Research Professor

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Dawn C. Nunziato
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Omari Scott Simmons
Lyle T. Alverson Professor of Law

Roger H. Trangsrud
James F. Humphreys Professor of Complex Litigation and Civil Procedure

Jonathan Turley
J.B. and Maurice C. Shapiro Professor of Public Interest Law

Robert W. Tuttle
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Arthur E. Wilmarth
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