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May 23, 2025

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. Senate  
135 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. Senate  
711 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

We write to express our enthusiastic support for Whitney Hermandorfer, who has been nominated to serve as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

We are partners at Williams & Connolly LLP. We were privileged to call Whitney our colleague before she chose to return to her home state of Tennessee to live near family and pursue public service. Most of us have also served as law clerks at different levels of the federal judiciary and many of us have appeared before the Sixth Circuit and district courts within the Circuit. To put it mildly, we have a diverse range of political viewpoints. Yet we are in unanimous agreement on one thing: Whitney will be a superb member of the federal judiciary.

Whitney was a cherished member of the firm, with experience and judgment well beyond her years. All who worked with Whitney found her to be brilliant, hard-working, and exceptionally collegial. Whitney modeled what it means to represent clients zealously and ethically. Whitney was also a great listener who not only respected diverse views, but constantly sought them out. And Whitney extended unflagging respect and courtesy to all of her colleagues and adversaries—regardless of their beliefs.

At Williams & Connolly, we pride ourselves on giving attorneys significant practice opportunities from the start, and Whitney was no exception. Whitney's practice at the firm focused on appellate litigation, and she served a critical role in building our Supreme Court and appellate practice into one of the nation's finest. She was trusted by clients and colleagues alike to spearhead briefing in numerous complex matters involving wide-ranging issues. Few lawyers of Whitney's generation have the appellate experience that Whitney does.

Whitney also demonstrated a deep commitment to pro bono work, in the finest traditions of the profession and of the firm. Of particular note, she was appointed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit to argue on behalf of an indigent person challenging an unlawful administrative agency action. She persuaded the court of appeals to unanimously vacate the

agency’s decision. The panel expressly acknowledged its gratitude to Whitney and her co-counsel and “commend[ed] the quality of their briefing and argument.”<sup>1</sup>

Although Whitney left the firm almost two years ago, from junior associates to senior partners, the impression she left behind is indelible. Whitney served as a tremendous leader to our younger lawyers: Associates of all political stripes who worked under Whitney continue to rave about her mentorship, kindness, and selflessness, and continue to go to her for career and life advice. And Lisa Blatt, the leader of our Supreme Court and appellate practice and a former Ruth Bader Ginsburg clerk, describes Whitney as a “once-in-a-lifetime combination of legal talent, kindness, and positivity.”

We are proud to count Whitney as an alumna of our firm. She is exceptionally qualified, and we strongly and unanimously support her confirmation to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen D. Andrews  
William P. Ashworth  
Robert B. Barnett  
Edward C. Barnidge  
Edward J. Bennett  
David I. Berl  
David S. Blatt  
Lisa S. Blatt  
Paul E. Boehm  
George A. Borden  
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Aaron P. Maurer  
C. Luke McCloud  
John M. McNichols  
Carl R. Metz  
Liam J. Montgomery  
Richmond T. Moore  
Matthew B. Nicholson

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<sup>1</sup> *Ocee v. Attorney General*, No. 20-2423, 2022 WL 3334532, at \*1 n.2 (3d Cir. Aug. 12, 2022).

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