Thomas A. Pressly IV
State Senator
District 38

Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chairman
United States Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Letter of Support for Bradford Kelley's Nomination to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana

Dear Chairman Grassley and Honorable Senators,

I write to offer my strongest possible support for the nomination of Bradford Kelley to serve as a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana. I had the privilege of working with Brad when I served as a law clerk in the United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana during 2013–2014 term. That experience gave me an opportunity to observe firsthand the qualities that make Brad exceptionally well suited for the federal bench: outstanding professional competence, unquestioned integrity, sound judgment, and a temperament ideally suited to the responsibilities of a federal judge.

During the time we worked together, I came to have tremendous respect for Brad's legal ability. He possesses the rare combination of intellectual rigor, practical judgment, and attention to detail that is essential to excellent judging. Brad approaches legal questions thoughtfully and thoroughly. He has a deep understanding of the law, but equally important, he understands how the law operates in the real world and the consequences that judicial decisions can have on the parties before the court. His work reflects careful preparation, sound reasoning, and a commitment to reaching the right result rather than the expedient one.

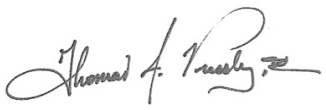
Just as importantly, Brad's professional integrity is beyond question. Over the past 25 years of knowing him, Brad has consistently conducted himself with honesty, fairness, and respect for the judicial process. He understands that the legitimacy of our courts depends not only upon reaching correct legal conclusions, but also upon maintaining the confidence of litigants and the public in the fairness and impartiality of the judiciary. Brad takes that responsibility seriously. He is a person of principle who can be trusted to apply the law faithfully, regardless of the identity or interests of the parties before him.

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Brad's temperament is well suited for the federal bench. He is measured, respectful, patient, and even-handed. He listens carefully before reaching conclusions and treats people with dignity, including when circumstances are difficult or disagreements are sharp. He has the confidence and composure to make difficult decisions without becoming unnecessarily adversarial or allowing personalities to interfere with his analysis. Those qualities are especially important on the federal bench, where judges routinely confront complex disputes, strong personalities, and consequential issues.

Brad's legal ability, his work ethic, his character, and his respect for the judicial process would make him an exceptional United States District Judge. I therefore offer my strongest and unqualified support for Bradford Kelley's nomination to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. I am confident that he would serve with distinction and would bring credit to the federal judiciary, the legal profession, and the people of Louisiana.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Pressly IV

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