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June 4, 2017

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

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nomination of Julius Ness Richardson as
Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein,

We write in enthusiastic support of the nomination of Julius Ness Richardson as Circuit Judge for the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Mr. Richardson worked for three-and-a-half years as an associate at our law firm in Washington, D.C., now called Kellogg, Hansen, Todd, Figel & Frederick, P.L.L.C. We all either worked directly with Mr. Richardson or know of his sterling reputation from his time at the firm. We are Democrats, Republicans, and independents, and we have a wide range of views on politics, judicial philosophy, and much else. Yet we all write to support the nomination of Mr. Richardson to the Fourth Circuit. Mr. Richardson is an outstanding lawyer of remarkable intellect, unblemished character, and judicial temperament. He is eminently qualified for the job.

Many of us worked closely with Mr. Richardson and had the opportunity to observe his approach to the law, sometimes in a challenging environment like a high-pressure jury trial. Based on our observations, we came to respect Mr. Richardson's diligent work ethic, his keen legal mind, and his remarkable abilities as a trial lawyer. He always conducted himself with professionalism, creativity, and integrity. Mr. Richardson is smart, honorable, and fair-minded; all good qualities for a Circuit Court Judge.

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We watched Mr. Richardson come into his own as a trial lawyer. In fact, some of us were present when he put his first witness on the witness stand. The witness was a difficult one; an engineer who was very nervous and very literal-minded. He was a key witness in the trial and preparing him was no easy task for a first-time trial lawyer. Mr. Richardson worked patiently with the witness, reassuring him that his meticulous nature was a good thing – all he had to do was tell the truth as he saw it. Together, at trial, they walked through the witness's testimony in a perfectly constructed narrative that was not just the truth; it was a compelling story about building a business and entering into the contract at issue in the trial. By the end of the examination, the jury clearly had developed a connection with the witness – and with Mr. Richardson too. Not surprisingly, Mr. Richardson won that first jury trial.

After Mr. Richardson left our law firm, we have watched with pride the success he has had as a federal prosecutor in the District of South Carolina. We were disappointed to lose his talents from our law firm, but we admired his commitment to public service. We eagerly followed his numerous courtroom victories as a federal prosecutor – especially the important prosecution of Dylann Roof for the terrible murders at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church. We were not at all surprised that Mr. Richardson was chosen for such an important case. He is a lawyer's lawyer. Based on our observations from afar, during this nationally prominent trial, Mr. Richardson conducted himself with integrity and a single-minded focus on seeking justice for the victims of this horrific crime.

Mr. Richardson is fully qualified for the position of Circuit Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. In light of our experience working with him, we believe that Mr. Richardson has the intellect, character, and temperament to be an excellent addition to the federal bench. We urge your support for his confirmation to this important position.

Very truly yours,

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Partner, Kellogg Hansen

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