

December 12, 2025

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

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

**Re: Letter of Support for Brian Lea's Confirmation to the United States District
Court for the Western District of Tennessee**

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

We are all former law clerks of Justice Clarence Thomas, and we write to wholeheartedly support the confirmation of Brian Lea, our fellow Thomas clerk, to serve as district judge in the Western District of Tennessee. We hold a range of legal and political views and work in different roles, including in private practice, in federal and state government, and in law schools. But we are united in our view that Brian is an ideal judicial candidate.

Brian is highly intelligent, quickly able to discern the critical issues in a case and their implications. He is fair minded, humble, and receptive to persuasion by the best arguments. He is an extremely hard worker, committed to deeply understanding the record and precedent. And he is kind and collegial; he consistently shows respect and good humor to all those with whom he interacts.

It's thus unsurprising that Brian has built a stellar legal career. He distinguished himself as a law clerk for Judge Ed Carnes on the Eleventh Circuit and for Justice Thomas. In private practice at Jones Day, he gained deep trial and appellate experience in federal and state courts. Most recently, he has served as Deputy Associate Attorney General in the U.S. Department of Justice. This well-rounded background will serve him well as a district judge.

Brian is also a thought leader, writing and speaking regularly on a variety of substantive legal issues. The American Law Institute elected him to membership several years ago, recognizing his professional achievements and demonstrated interest in improving the law. He has also served as a visiting professor at the University of Georgia School of Law. His articles have been published in leading law journals and have been cited in Supreme Court opinions.

In sum, Brian's expertise, experience, and civility make him a wonderful choice for the federal bench. The Senate Judiciary Committee and the full Senate should expeditiously process and confirm his nomination.

Madeline W. Clark (OT '18)
Adam Conrad (OT '06)
Michael Corcoran (OT '22)
Richard Corn (OT '03)
Steven Cottreau (OT '99)
Gilbert Dickey (OT '17)
Jennifer B. Dickey (OT '14)
Robert Dunn (OT '12)
Andrew Ferguson (OT '16)
Matt Fitzgerald (OT '10)
Claire Evans (OT '08)
Nicole Garnett (OT '98)
James Gauch (OT '93)
Chris Goodnow (OT '21)
Jennifer Hardy (OT '04)
Brittney Lane Kubisch (OT '17)
Brandt Leibe (OT '06)
Elbert Lin (OT '10)
Caroline Cook Lindsay (OT '19)
Brinton Lucas (OT '14)
Kevin Marshall (OT '99)
Marah McLeod (OT '09)
Taylor Meehan (OT '15)

Sincerely,

Greg Miller (OT '17)
Jack Millman (OT '20)
Christopher Mills (OT '18)
Caroline Milner (OT '23)
Kasdin Mitchell (OT '16)
Matthew Nicholson (OT '11)
Cameron T. Norris (OT '17)
Patrick O'Daniel (OT '98)
Haley Proctor (OT '14)
Saikrishna Prakash (OT '94)
J. Matthew Rice (OT '19)
Rebekah Ricketts (OT '13)
Bo Rutledge (OT '98)
Brian Schmalzbach (OT '13)
Robert Stander (OT '14)
Michelle Stratton (OT '11)
Heath Tarbert (OT '07)
Kate Todd (OT '00)
Manuel Valle (OT '21)
Thomas Wilson (OT '24)
Katie Yarger (OT '13)
Alexis Zhang (OT '24)