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Senator Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Judicial Nominee Bridget Shelton Bade

Dear Senator Grassley,

I am honored to write this individual letter to express my enthusiastic support for Magistrate Judge Bridget Shelton Bade, who has been nominated for a position on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

By way of reintroduction, I grew up in Laurens, Iowa, where my brother still farms our family's Century Farms. In the summer of 1982, I had the good fortune of work as an intern in your Washington, D.C., office. After graduating from Iowa State University, you were kind enough to write a letter on my behalf when I applied to the University of Iowa College of Law. After graduating from law school, I clerked for two years for Judge David R. Hansen, then United States District Judge for the Northern District of Iowa (and later the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals). For nearly fifteen years, I was in private practice in Washington, D.C., and Phoenix. In 2007, I was appointed to the Arizona Superior Court in Maricopa County and served as a trial judge for nearly five years until 2012, when I was appointed to the Arizona Court of Appeals, where I currently serve as Chief Judge.

During my time in private practice and as a judge, I have gotten to know Bridget and highly recommend her to you. Bridget did not ask that I write to you. I offered to do so, and she graciously accepted that offer. I am honored to let you know why, based on my experience, I believe she would be a strong Circuit Court Judge.

I first got to know Bridget nearly 20 years ago, when we both served as members of the State Bar of Arizona's Civil Practice and Procedure Committee for many years. That group was (and is) a blue-ribbon panel of judges and lawyers that consider how the procedural rules applicable to civil litigation can be improved. The members have different, varied and at times irreconcilable views that topic. Bridget served with distinction in that environment, offering instructive, thoughtful, wise and smart

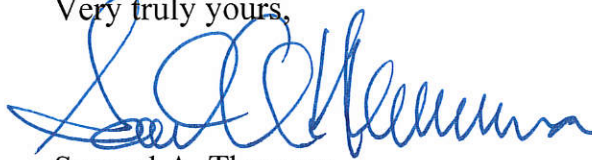
suggestions. She was a leader of the group, even though many members had been practicing far longer than she had been. I thought highly enough of Bridget to ensure that she served as Vice Chair of the Committee when I was completing my service as Chair.

Bridget has a wonderful combination of private practice experience, public law experience and also served as a Lawyer Representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference and as a law clerk for a Fifth Circuit Judge. These experiences, and the insight they provide, will serve her very well on the Ninth Circuit. Although I never had cases involving Bridget, either when I was in private practice or on the bench, she has a sterling reputation as being smart, wise, thoughtful and fair and has an extremely strong work ethic. She also has a reputation as having the highest ethical standards; not surprisingly, a survey of her peers rates her as an "AV" attorney, the highest grade possible. Similarly, although I have never appeared before her during her time on the bench, she has a wonderful reputation as a judicial officer.

Bridget graduated at the top of her class from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona. She served as an Articles Editor on the *Arizona State Law Journal*, published a note in that journal, received the Sandra Day O'Connor Constitutional Law Award and received various merit-based scholarships. She also graduated at the top of her undergraduate class, also at Arizona State, where she served in leadership in student government (being acknowledged as Outstanding Senator along the way), was elected to a national leadership honorary and received various merit-based scholarships. Bridget is a proud and engaged parent and spouse and involved in the community more broadly.

Without further lengthening this letter, let me close by simply stating I think very highly of Bridget Shelton Bade and I support without reservation her nomination to the Ninth Circuit. Thank you for your consideration of this letter and, should you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Samuel A. Thumma

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