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February 16, 2018

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member
Committee of the Judiciary
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Letter of Support for the Nomination of Judge John Nalbandian to the
United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

There is not a lot that John Nalbandian and I agree on in terms of political philosophy. But that hasn't stopped him from gaining my respect, my trust, my admiration and my utmost confidence in his ability to fulfill the duties of an appellate judge in one of the highest courts in the nation. I enthusiastically support his nomination for appointment to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

It is no secret in Cincinnati that Mr. Nalbandian is one of the absolute best appellate lawyers in town. He is fastidious in his approach and nimble on his feet, and has mastery in both the scholarly and doctrinal aspects of the law and its practical and persuasive application to the cases he argues.

To be able to maintain a practice at a large law firm that is almost exclusively appellate in nature is incredibly rare and takes a highly refined set of skills. Mr. Nalbandian has those skills, and then some. It is a testament to his unique abilities that he rose through the ranks in a legal market dominated by the billable hour, not on sheer productivity but on truly exotic legal acumen.

In my social dealings with Mr. Nalbandian, whether across the river in our home state of Kentucky or in downtown Cincinnati, I have always found him to be quick to laugh, clever, honest and insightful. He is a serious man who does not take himself too seriously.

More than a stuffed shirt, I think the judiciary would benefit from someone who can be both academic and affable. Mr. Nalbandian has those characteristics in great measure. I also know him to be a tremendous father and family man, as comfortable in Diagon Alley at Harry Potter World as he is in the well of the Sixth Circuit.

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Mr. Nalbandian has my support as someone who would take this solemn position and bring to it considerable skill, passion and respect for the law and for the lives it touches. I would be more than happy to discuss Mr. Nalbandian's candidacy should that aid in your consideration of him.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew A. Rich". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "M" and a trailing flourish.

Matthew A. Rich, Esq.

MAR/lah