

BETH A. BRYAN
513.357.9617
bryan@taftlaw.com

February 21, 2018

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

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

RE: John Nalbandian

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

I write to voice my enthusiastic support for my partner and mentor John Nalbandian's nomination to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Although I know that you have received several letters from partners at Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP, I write to offer my perspective as a young female litigation partner who has worked closely with and under the guidance of John for the last eleven years.

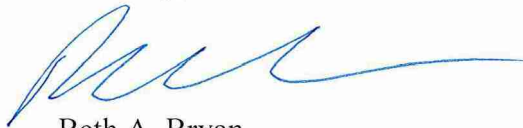
I first met John as a summer associate at Taft. At that time, he served on our firm's hiring committee, and was the only minority member of that committee. Throughout that summer and after my subsequent hiring, John has served as a mentor to me. As a young attorney, I could not have asked for a better mentor. He taught me to read cases critically and follow the law where it takes me rather than making certain assumptions. His breadth of knowledge of various areas of the law is unmatched by any attorney in our firm; his experience includes criminal, antitrust, environmental, administrative, and employment matters. Based on this, he has taught me to look at cases differently and has certainly made me a much better attorney. He has also taught me the proper way to deal with opposing counsel and the various courts. And he has done so with patience and enthusiasm.

My experience with John is not unique. He has long served as a mentor to female and minority attorneys at Taft. He also serves on numerous committees in the Greater Cincinnati region devoted to increasing the volume and significance of legal work performed by minority attorneys, including the Greater Cincinnati Minority Counsel Program. This kind of devotion by an attorney is rare, especially given the demands of his busy practice. Yet John has never approached being a mentor as an obligation. Rather he has done so because he genuinely loves the law and is interested in making the legal community more open and inviting to all attorneys. And I know that should John be confirmed, his commitment to increasing the ranks of minority and female attorneys will continue, just in a different way.

I believe that the qualities that make John a great mentor will also make him a great judge. It is my humble opinion that judicial temperament, respect for the law, and respect for the litigants and their counsel are some of the most important qualities that a judge should possess. John has all of these qualities. He is the consummate professional and treats everyone involved in his cases from opposing counsel to members of our staff with dignity and respect. And all litigants appearing in front of him will know that they have a fair opportunity to make their case.

In the law, often times the only thing that sets an attorney apart is his reputation. And John's reputation in our legal community is that of a brilliant appellate lawyer of the highest ethical standard. I feel truly honored to have had the opportunity to work with such an outstanding attorney and cannot think of a better-suited candidate to serve on the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Beth A. Bryan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Beth A. Bryan

BAB:mat