

March 25, 2025

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

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

Re: Nomination of Brett A. Shumate as Assistant Attorney General (Civil Division)

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

As former officials from federal agencies across presidential administrations of both political parties, we write to express our strong support for the nomination of Brett A. Shumate to serve as the next Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Division at the U.S. Department of Justice.

At the Justice Department, the Civil Division performs a vital role serving as the main litigating component chiefly responsible for defending the laws, programs, and policies of the United States. The Civil Division also recovers monies owed to the federal treasury; defends civil claims brought against the United States; handles immigration litigation; enforces consumer protection laws; administers congressionally-established victim compensation funds (including the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund); and represents the United States in litigation in foreign courts (among other important functions).

With a distinguished career in law (including at the Justice Department) and devotion to the Constitution and rule of law, Brett Shumate is well-qualified to lead the Civil Division. A native of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the son of an attorney, Brett grew up hoping to practice law as well. He excelled as a student-athlete and was a varsity baseball pitcher at Furman University where he graduated magna cum laude in 2003. In 2006, he graduated magna cum laude from Wake Forest Law School after serving as the executive editor of the law review. He clerked for the Honorable Edith H. Jones on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. For almost a decade thereafter, Brett was a litigation attorney with the law firm of Wiley Rein LLP in Washington, D.C., where he rose to become a partner in 2015 and earned a reputation as an accomplished and respected litigator and zealous advocate for his clients. In 2017, Brett answered the call to public service and was sworn in as the Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Division where he vigorously defended the interests of the United States in high-profile litigation across the country and demonstrated his ability to faithfully serve as a trusted public official. As the lead official overseeing the Civil Division's Federal Programs Branch, Brett supervised over 110 attorneys defending a wide array of federal departments, agencies, and programs. He personally argued dozens of cases in highly consequential matters involving national security, agency regulations, and federal spending, just to name a few. In that role, he also met regularly with federal agency

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leaders and staff to provide legal counsel and help steer the United States through complex litigation. Prior to rejoining the Department earlier this year, Brett was a partner at the law firm of Jones Day in Washington, D.C. Over the course of his legal career, Brett has established himself as a trusted and respected litigator who conducts his work with the highest standards of professionalism and integrity. He is also a devoted husband, father, friend, and mentor who cares deeply about our Nation, its bedrock principles, and the freedoms we all cherish.

In sum, Brett Shumate has the experience, skills, temperament, and character to well and faithfully perform the important duties of this office. We are honored to commend him to the U.S. Senate for prompt confirmation.

Respectfully,

Alice LaCour, Counselor to the Attorney General, Senior Counsel and Chief Adviser to AAG Civil Division (2014-2020)

Andrew Lelling, U.S. Attorney, D. Mass. (2017-2021)

Ben Aguiñaga Chief of Staff, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice (2017-2018)

Bert Rein, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State EB (1969-1972)

Beth Williams, Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Policy (2017-2020)

Bethany Pickett Shah, Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General (2017-2019); Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Texas (2020-2021)

Brian C. Rabbitt, Acting Assistant Attorney General; Criminal Division (2020); Chief of Staff and Senior Counselor to the Attorney General (2019-2020)

Brian Morrissey, Former Deputy General Counsel, U.S. Department of the Treasury (2019-2021)

Brian Pandya, Deputy Associate Attorney General (2019-2021)

Brinton Lucas, Deputy Associate Attorney General (2019-2021); Senior Counsel (2019) and Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division (2017-2019)

Charles E.T. Roberts, Trial Attorney, Federal Programs Branch (2019-2022)

Corinne Snow Chief of Staff, ENRD (2017-2019)

Dan Mauler, Trial Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice (2018-2021)

Dan T. Moss, Partner (17 years)

David A. Gross, DAS and Ambassador, U.S. Department of State (2001-2009)

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David Morrell, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division (2019-2020)

Drew Hudson, Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General (2017-2019)

E. Stewart Crosland, Counsel to Chairman of the Federal Election Commission (2015)

Edward C. O'Callaghan, Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General 2018-2019; AUSA SDNY (1999-2008)

Eric Dreiband, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division (2018-2021)

Eric Grant, Deputy Assistant Attorney General (ENRD) (2017-2021)

Eric Soskin, Inspector General, Department of Transportation (2021-2025)

G. Zachary Terwilliger, United States Attorney, Eastern District of Virginia (2018-2021)

George Fibbe, Deputy General Counsel for Litigation, Regulation & Enforcement, US Department of Energy (2017-2019)

Gilbert Dickey, Associate White House Counsel (2020)

Hashim Mooppan, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Appellate Staff (2017-2020); Counselor to the Solicitor General (2020-2021)

Holly Greaves, Former EPA CFO

James Burnham, Senior Counsel (2017-2018), Deputy Assistant Attorney General (2018-2020), Counselor to the Attorney General (2020)

Jeff Beelaert, Deputy Associate Attorney General (2020-2021)

Jeffrey B. Wall, Principal Deputy Solicitor General (2017-2021)

Jeffrey Wood, Acting Assistant Attorney General, ENRD (2017-2018)

Jennie Bradley Lichter, Counsel, OLP (2017-2019)

Jennifer Dickey, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, DOJ Civil Division (2020); Deputy Associate Attorney General, DOJ (2019-2020); Special Assistant to the President (2019); Associate Counsel to the President (2018-2019); Counsel, DOJ Office of Legal Policy (2017-2018)

Jeremy Broggi, Associate Director, White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (2008-2009); Special Assistant, Office of the Vice President (2006-2008)

Jeremy M. Bylund, Deputy Associate Attorney General (2017-2018)

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Jesse Panuccio, Acting Associate Attorney General and Principal Deputy Associate Attorney General (2017-2019)

John M. Gore, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice Civil Rights Division (2017-2018); Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice Civil Rights Division (2018-2019)

John O'Quinn, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division (2008-2009); Deputy Associate Attorney General (2006-2008)

John V. Coghlan, Deputy Assistant Attorney General (2020-2021)

Jonathan Berry, Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Policy (2017-2018)

Jonathan D. Brightbill, Environment & Natural Resources Division (2017-2021)

Jordan L. Von Bokern, Senior Counsel, Office of Legal Policy, U.S. Department of Justice (2018-2020), Trial Attorney, Federal Programs Branch, U.S. Department of Justice (2020-2022)

Joseph (Jody) Hunt, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division (2018-2020), Chief of Staff to the Attorney General (2017), Director, Federal Programs Branch (2002-2017)

Justin Herdman, United States Attorney, Northern District of Ohio (2017-2021)

Kevin Marshall, Deputy Assistant Attorney General (Office of Legal Counsel) (2004-2007)

Matthew Z. Leopold, General Counsel, U.S. EPA (2018-2020)

Megan Leef Brown, Counsel to the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General

Michael Fragoso, Deputy Assistant Attorney General (2018-2019)

Michael Murray, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General and Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust Division (2018-2021), Associate Deputy Attorney General (2017-2018)

Noel J. Francisco, Solicitor General (2017-2020)

Patrick Hovakimian, Associate Deputy AG; Deputy Associate AG (2017-2021)

Prerak Shah, Acting U.S. Attorney for NDTX (2021); First Assistant U.S. Attorney for NDTX (2020-2021) Deputy Assistant Attorney General (2020); Deputy Associate Attorney General (2019-2020)

R. Trent McCotter, Deputy Associate Attorney General (2020-2021)

Rachael Tucker Wyrick, Counselor to the Attorney General (2017-2019)

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Richard E. Wiley, Chairman Emeritus of Wiley Rein LLP (1983-present)

Robert Luther III, Associate Counsel to the President (2017-2018)

Rod J. Rosenstein, Deputy Attorney General (2017-2019)

Roger Severino, Trial Attorney (2017-2021)

Sarah Levine, Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Division (2015-2017)

Schuyler J. Schouten, Special Assistant to the President, Senior Associate Counsel to the President, and Deputy Legal Advisor to the National Security Council (2017-2019)

Stacy Amin, Senior Associate Counsel to the President, Office of the White House Counsel (2017-2018); Chief Counsel, U.S. Food & Drug Administration and Deputy General Counsel, Department of Health and Human Services (2018-2021)

Stephen Cox, United States Attorney, Eastern District of Texas (2020-2021); Deputy Associate Attorney General (2017-2020)

Tom Johnson, General Counsel, FCC (2017-2021)

William R. Levi, Chief of Staff and Senior Counselor to the Attorney General (2020); Counselor to the Attorney General (2018-2019)

William McSwain, U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Pennsylvania (2018-2021)