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File No. 900000-0007

February 16, 2018

Senator Chuck Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Hon. John B. Nalbandian

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

I write to express my strong support for John B. Nalbandian's nomination to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit. I believe John has the intellect, integrity, experience and judicial temperament to make an excellent Judge of the Circuit Court.

I am the former Chief Judge of the State of New York and I am now of counsel at the law firm of Latham & Watkins in New York City. I spent over 4 decades of my career in the courts, including serving as a Court of Claims Judge and Supreme Court Judge, as the Chief Administrative Judge, and as Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, 1st Department before becoming Chief Judge. I am the recipient of numerous awards, including the William H. Rehnquist Award For Judicial Excellence from the National Center for State Courts and the John Marshall Award from the American Bar Association.

I have had the pleasure of knowing John Nalbandian since 2013 as a member of the Board of the State Justice Institute ("SJI") after being appointed to the role by President Obama, and confirmed by the United States Senate. As a member of the Board of SJI, I have spent considerable time with John who had previously been appointed to the Board. He is a person of intellectual rigor and sound judgment, and is guided by the highest ethical standards. It has been

a pleasure to deal with him on issues of great importance to our state courts. John is an invaluable member of SJI who is looked to by other Board members for his wisdom and guidance in our decision making process in which we award grants to state judiciaries. John's temperament is unflappable and composed, and he always conducts himself with dignity and respect for others. He also has a wonderful sense of humor, and is a warm and caring person.

President Trump's nomination of John to the 6th Circuit will bring great credit to the United States court system. His practice is focused on appellate and general litigation in state and federal courts. He has represented clients in anti-trust, products liabilities, intellectual property, environment, employment, white collar crimes and class actions. John is admitted to practice in many state and federal courts around the country. John's wide experience as a practicing lawyer is a perfect background for someone who seeks to sit on the Circuit Court bench. Appellate law is something that John has dedicated himself to in his professional life, and that he has excelled at through his career.

John graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law, where he was Order of the Coif and the managing editor of the Virginia Law Review. After graduation he clerked in the US Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit and practiced law in Washington, DC, where he concentrated on appellate practice. He has been recognized by Best Lawyers in America for his appellate work, and was the 2016 Lawyer of the Year for Cincinnati Appellate Practice. John has also served as a Special Justice on the Kentucky Supreme Court, and as a frequent lecturer on appellate practice.

John is deeply involved in community and professional organizations including the Greater Cincinnati Majority Program and the Northern Kentucky Tri-Ed Board of Directors, and has served as President of the Cincinnati Lawyers Chapter of the Federal Society and on merit selection panels for judiciary vacancies. His numerous activities are a testament to his energy and enthusiasm and his deep involvement in serving his community and the legal profession.

I cannot think of a person more qualified to sit on the United States 6th Circuit Court of Appeals than John B. Nalbandian. He would be a superb jurist, dedicated to upholding the rule of law and equal justice for all. I recommend him without any hesitation whatsoever to serve as a Judge of the 6th Circuit.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide you with any further information about John B. Nalbandian, for whom I have great respect and admiration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Lippman", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Hon. Jonathan Lippman
Of Counsel
of LATHAM & WATKINS LLP