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March 10, 2010

*VIA FACSIMILE**202-224-9516*

Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy:

I note that the committee will again be considering the nomination of Magistrate Judge Jane Magnus Stinson to the bench of the Southern District Court of Indiana. I write in support of this nomination as a member of the bar practicing in the Southern District of Indiana. I also write as someone impressed with Judge Magnus Stinson as an exemplary jurist whose service has engendered well earned bipartisan respect. You have now considered two nominees for our district and so are hopefully well aware that there is some urgency to fill these empty benches as the Southern District of Indiana happens to have one of the heaviest dockets in the nation.

With your kind indulgence, there is some information that the Committee may wish to rely upon in further consideration of her nomination.

I have known Jane Magnus Stinson in every one of her professional capacities from private practice to her now extended career in public service. There are certain qualities that have been consistently recognized in her work at every level. From the beginning in private practice, she was well known as a worthy adversary – always impeccably well prepared and skilled. Upon moving to public service, as counsel to the Governor, her high energy and commitment to the achievement of policy initiatives led to a record of achievement that well justified her appointment to the state court bench.

Significantly, that job was one that Jane sought when many others with her reputation and skills might have passed it by. It clearly was both a challenge and an opportunity for continued public service that she gladly took on. She not only assumed the bench with a criminal court docket that required her to master some areas of the law new to her, but she did so at a time when those courts were laboring under intimidating case loads. Her court was one of the busiest in the state. She quickly earned the universal respect of prosecutors and defense counsel alike for how well her court was run and for her rapid development of a reputation as a tough but fair jurist. Not content with that alone, Jane extended her work with the Bar at large, frequently teaching and speaking on a wide range of topics – notably including an emphasis on professionalism and ethics. Her command of the law and ability to teach the skills that make for high levels of competence are simply extraordinary.

As an appointee to the Indiana Supreme Court Disciplinary Commission, I have long been aware of “Judge Jane’s” leadership in the areas of civility and professionalism – both as an exemplar and a teacher. She has such a well based reputation in the legal community that it is no surprise that she is equally well known in the community at large, again for the same qualities of knowledge, commitment, and impeccable execution that makes her someone that her church and school acquaintances feel strongly they can rely upon for support in many worthy causes.



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When Judge Magnus Stinson was reviewed and considered for appointment as a Magistrate Judge for the Southern District Court of Indiana, I also had the privilege of serving on the bipartisan Magistrate Selection Committee which does the initial review. Judge Stinson was an easy choice for that Committee to recommend for the Article III judges to consider for final appointment. While she has not been in that job very long, it is worth noting from my experience as an active practitioner in those courts, that she is often asked to serve as the trial judge, which for a "new" magistrate is unusual. While unusual, it is not surprising that both plaintiff and defense lawyers will agree to have her preside over a case as her reputation as a fair and first rate trial judge is so easily confirmed by those unfamiliar with her.

I know this committee will have had a lengthy resume to review for Judge Magnus Stinson including the many honors and awards given to her in recognition of the qualities noted above, and my point in writing is to underscore that for the practitioners in our district, she has been consistently honored for good reason. Appointment to Article III status would be the obvious next step to take advantage of the chance to get a truly proven great judge in a position to continue to serve the people of Indiana. It is also worth noting that the very same bi-partisan support that her nomination has garnered from Senator Lugar and Senator Bayh is no less reflected locally - from her recommendation to the Magistrate Judge position to the broader professional recognition she routinely receives, Judge Magnus Stinson is universally regarded as one of our best, period.

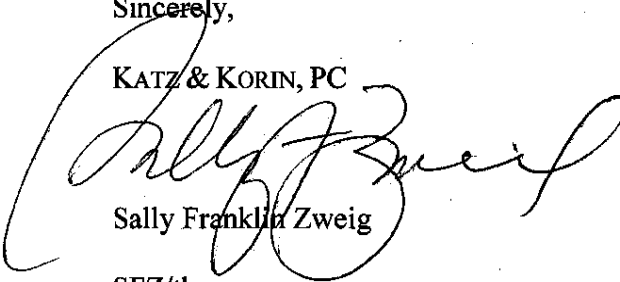
I respectfully submit that the Committee should consider all of the various signs of high esteem that Judge Magnus Stinson has earned from her peers in Indianapolis. Those who know her best, find her to be a judge worthy of special recognition.

The Committee on the Judiciary has the opportunity to place Judge Jane Magnus Stinson in an office with a broader sphere of influence. This is simply additional evidence that the Committee may recommend her, secure in the knowledge that she is someone who would bring a high standard of proven judicial talent and professionalism to serve the Southern District of Indiana. Please add this information in further support that the Committee will serve the public well by voting to recommend her confirmation to the full Senate at its earliest convenience.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

KATZ & KORIN, PC



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