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The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chairman
and
The Honorable Dick Durbin, Ranking Member,
United States Senate Judiciary Committee

Subject: Recommendation of Peter M. Mansfield, Nominee for United States District Judge,
Eastern District of Louisiana

Messrs. Grassley and Durbin and distinguished Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to strongly support Peter Mansfield's nomination to the bench of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. My unreserved recommendation is made based on our professional work together in the United States Department of Justice for some eight years and our continuing personal and professional friendship of more than two decades.

During my nearly 12 years as the United States Attorney for the EDLA—having been appointed by President George W. Bush and having continued under President Barack Obama—I had the privilege and good fortune of *hiring* Peter as an Assistant United States Attorney, and personally witnessed his increasing responsibilities thereafter as Financial Litigation Unit supervisor and Deputy Chief of the offices Civil Division (which continued thereafter with his service as the Chief of the EDLA's entire Civil Division).

Peter's impressive legal career, beginning with his *magna cum laude* graduation at the top of his class at Ave Maria School of Law, through his distinguished DOJ service culminating with 21 years in the United States Attorney's office, is nothing short of exemplary.

Having served as the United States Attorney, working closely with Peter often on a daily basis over many years, has been a matter of pride for me. Indeed, from his very first day, Peter proved himself to be one of the finest, brightest, most ethical, committed, hard-working and skilled attorneys I've ever known. It's not an exaggeration for me to say that Peter Mansfield was and is one of the best and sharpest legal minds I've ever encountered in my 47 years of law

practice and my 20 years' service with U.S. Naval Intelligence. From his tireless daily leadership and hands-on litigation, management, training and publishing expertise—to his extraordinary legal writing skills, unflappable temperament and unsurpassed interpersonal skills, Peter has stood out as one of the best professionals (and human beings) I have ever known. Moreover, Peter has earned the respect and trust of the judges of the EDLA bench and the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal.

I would not say this lightly, but I consider Peter to be truly brilliant and extraordinary as an attorney, leader and individual, such that I *never* hesitated to rely on his analyses, recommendations, advice and approaches in addressing the most difficult legal issues across the entire spectrum. And his work ethic is second to none.

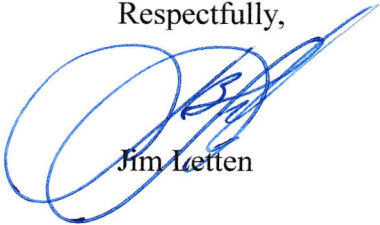
Peter stands out as a bright, energetic individual with unsurpassed knowledge of and commitment to the Constitution and laws of our nation, and with a clear sense of purpose and devotion to our legal system for over two decades without fail.

In my 30 year career with the U.S. Department of Justice, and my 20 years as a Naval Intelligence Officer, I have had the privilege of hiring and working closely with some of the best and brightest professionals *anywhere*...and Peter ranks among the best of the best. It has been *my privilege* to have served with him.

I am confident that you will not find a better, harder working, or more uniquely qualified attorney than Peter to serve as United States District Judge here in the EDLA. I'm proud to have worked with him and to have known him. I therefore support and recommend him without reservation for confirmation as United States Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or requests. Thanking you for your service, I remain,

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Letten", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Jim Letten