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June 5, 2026

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

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

Re: Appointment of Michael Martin as United States District Court Judge

Dear Senators Grassley and Durbin:

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of the appointment of Michael Martin to the position of Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. I have known Mike for eighteen years, first as a fellow Assistant United States Attorney, then as Mike's supervisor when he led the office's National Security Unit, then as my Deputy Criminal Division Chief, and now as a criminal defense attorney who interacts with Mike in his role as Chief of the Criminal Division, the position I held when I left public service four years ago. I have greatly valued my relationship with Mike as it has evolved over time.

Throughout his public service career, Mike has been entrusted with increasingly important positions of responsibility. The United States Attorneys appointed during the Obama, Biden, and Trump Administrations all had great confidence in and respect for Mike, reflected in the important and sensitive cases and supervisory positions he was assigned. When I was the Criminal Division Chief and Mike was the Chief of the National Security Unit, I relied on him to help our office and law enforcement partners effectively and lawfully address the threats of terrorism, espionage, and trade/export control violations. I valued his judgment and deep understanding of these complex areas so much that he became my first Deputy Criminal Chief when that position was created to help me manage the wide ranging responsibilities of the Criminal Division. Because of his keen mind, Mike had little problem expanding his responsibilities from national security to combating public corruption, financial crimes, federal program fraud, gang-related violence, drug trafficking, and child exploitation.

Mike is now ably running the entire Criminal Division himself. News media has reported instances in other parts of the country where prosecutors have been disrespectful to or lacked candor with the court. That is not something Mike would ever do or condone from the prosecutors he oversees. The Eastern District of Michigan has a long tradition of civility among



The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
June 5, 2026
Page 2

the criminal bar and bench, something Mike has proudly maintained during his tenure as Criminal Chief.

I have complete confidence that Mike will successfully make the transition from prosecutor to judge. Mike tries to see the whole story in any legal controversy. He emphasizes the importance of upholding the rule of law and victim rights, but also recognizes that criminal conduct must be viewed within the context of a defendant's background and history. Mike is a good listener. He withholds judgment so others can express their opinions and he changes his mind if someone else has the better argument. It is not important to him that his point of view carries the day. He wants to get the answer right. He will bring that same modesty, humility, and flexibility to the contentious issues he will inevitably face as a judge.

Mike is well-liked and well-respected by his colleagues and counterparts, regardless of rank. He does not focus on cultivating his standing with those in a position of power or influence, but equally values his relationships with those below him in the organizational structure. He always carves out time for his family, attending his children's sporting events, even coaching his son's baseball team.

In sum, I believe Mike has all the characteristics one expects of a judge. I fully support his appointment as a United States District Judge. He will serve the Eastern District of Michigan with distinction for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Dykema Gossett PLLC

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Chutkow".

Mark Chutkow