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June 4, 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: Candidacy of Michael Martin for U.S. District Court Judge – Eastern District Michigan

Dear Senators:

I am submitting this letter in support of your consideration of Michael Martin as a nominee for the United States District Court Judge's position (Article III), here in the Eastern District of Michigan. I practice criminal defense in federal and state courts and have been doing so since 1974. About 80 percent of my practice is federal work. Over the years, I have had a lot of experience in national and security cases and so, as you can imagine, our paths have crossed often. Mike and I both enjoy a collegial and successful working relationship. As such, I believe I can speak with some authority about him and his qualifications to fill this very important position.

I have known Mike since he first came to Detroit from Washington D.C. He had been a trial attorney there in the counter-espionage section for the Department of Justice. He was formerly a clerk for a federal judge in Boston, which made him most assuredly well suited for the job as a trial attorney. My understanding is he acted in his capacity for three years, honing his skills as an advocate in court. These skills were readily apparent when I first met him as a trial prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan. We have had many cases against each other; I was privileged as a much older lawyer to have watched him as he developed even further in the complex criminal cases we had as adversaries.

I believe Mike has exceptional legal competence. He is bright and intelligent, but he also has other qualities I think a judge should have. He possesses a wonderful temperament. He is courteous, patient, and respectful to all parties. He has the emotional maturity that I would expect a federal judge to possess. He is intellectually curious and an absolute professional.

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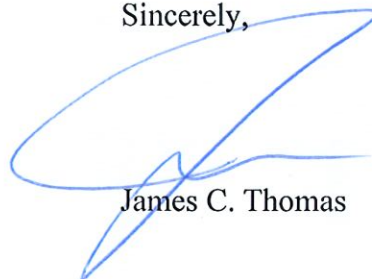
The reason I mention these qualities is because he worked in the National Security Unit. My perception is that the government has the appearance of being heavily invested in the vigorous pursuit of justice, and of course the stakes are astronomical on both sides. Mike never lost his sense of balance and fairness in my cases. Mike's organization and knowledge of the facts and applicable case law have been remarkable. His consistent composure was extraordinary under the circumstances. There was not one time when he appeared to hold back on a decision on the matter of merit from the defense, or to begrudge zealous advocacy on my part. He has always been diligent, never failing or refusing a phone call or a personal conference to address an important issue. He was attentive to detail and responsive to communication.

In celebrating the 200th anniversary of the U.S. Attorney's Office, the then U.S. Attorney Barbara McQuade spoke to a few hundred people in an event at the U.S. Courthouse in the Eastern District of Michigan. It was clear she took enormous pride in the long history, the challenging work, and the professionalism of the U.S. Attorney's Offices throughout the United States, and in particular in the Eastern District of Michigan. In my opinion, she had every right to do so. She talked about working, and eventually running an office, where the prosecutors valued their reputation of being fair and honest in dealing with the other side. With pride, she reflected that it was the kind of place where your word is your bond and where you could look the AUSA in the eye and you would have no reason to second guess about relying on what they said.

That is precisely the description I would give Mike. I believe Mike will carry these qualities with him as an Article III Judge. He has never compromised his integrity, ethics, or values and yet I always felt he would listen to a good argument. He has always been a worthy advocate capable of striking hard blows but not unfair ones (see *Berger vs. U.S.*, 1935). He has never comprised his principles for expedience. Rather, he has always looked for justice. Mike is most certainly a candidate worthy of your earnest consideration.

I am available for phone contact or contact in person. Please feel free to reach out to me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James C. Thomas", with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

James C. Thomas

JCT/ama