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April 9, 2024

Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Graham, Senator Blackburn, Senator Hagerty and Members of the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary:

On behalf of the Memphis Bar Association, which represents attorneys in Shelby County, Tennessee, we write in support of President Biden's nomination of Kevin G. Ritz to succeed the Honorable Julia Gibbons on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Mr. Ritz has admirably devoted his entire professional career to being a public servant. A graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law in 2004, Mr. Ritz began his legal career clerking for Judge Gibbons, making this a truly serendipitous moment. Since then, he has worked in the Office of the United States Attorney, Western District his entire career, serving as an Assistant United States Attorney and as Criminal Appellate Chief and Appellate Chief. Mr. Ritz is a seasoned and well-rounded attorney, having tried numerous cases, written more than 200 appellate briefs, and argued 37 cases in the federal court of appeals, but it is his experience serving as Appellate Chief that makes Mr. Ritz particularly well prepared to serve on the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

As the current United States Attorney for the Western District, appointed in September 2022, Mr. Ritz directs and supervises both criminal and civil litigation. Locally, he is known to be "tough but fair" and is considered a highly effective Attorney General. Under his leadership, prosecutions have included Covid-19 relief fraud schemes, the police officers involved in the death of Tyre Nichols, and countless violent crimes. He has launched initiatives to address violent crime such as the National Security and Civil Rights Unit. He has partnered with federal and local law enforcement, government, and the community to effectively serve as the U.S. Attorney General for the Western District of Tennessee. He has a pulse on the community and is in tune with the impact of a legal proceeding from the trial to the appeal.

Mr. Ritz volunteers his time with multiple organizations and has served in many leadership positions, including past chair of the Tennessee Bar Association's Appellate Practice Section and past President of the Memphis/Mid-South Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. Mr. Ritz volunteered as an adjunct professor at the University of Memphis School of Law. Mr. Ritz also volunteers at a local homeless shelter and was previously recognized by the Memphis Business Journal with the "Top 40 Under 40" Award.

Mr. Ritz has a reputation in the community for being experienced, analytical, trusted, conscientious, and above all, devoted to the profession and rule of law. He has a great deal of respect for the law and the role of the appellate courts, having trained under Judge Gibbons.

As a personal matter, Mr. Ritz took the time to meet with me shortly before I graduated law school many years ago. We had never met before this meeting. We discussed various career paths one may take after completing law school, and I still remember his passion for the law as we chatted over coffee. This simple meeting further exemplifies not only Mr. Ritz's compassion but also his willingness to sacrifice his time to assist others.

These qualities and others make Mr. Ritz an excellent selection for the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Ritz has the much-needed legal experience, temperament, leadership abilities, and passion for public service that make him an excellent candidate.

The MBA unequivocally supports the President's nomination of Mr. Ritz to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, and we ask that you confirm his nomination expeditiously.

Sincerely,



Adam Johnson  
President, Memphis Bar Association