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December 5, 2023

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chair: Senate Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member: Senate Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Letter of Recommendation: Nomination to the United States Northern District Court of Indiana
Judge Cristal Brisco

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

I am writing to express my STRONG support for the nomination of Judge Cristal Brisco to serve as a District Court Judge for the Northern District of Indiana. While our local legal community will miss Judge Brisco and her abilities as a Superior Court Judge in St. Joseph County, I know of no other person who would serve the Northern District of Indiana with more distinction, expertise and legal proficiency than Judge Brisco.

I believe I have a particular insight into the needs of a Presiding Judge. I have been the sitting Prosecuting Attorney for St. Joseph County for the past 9 years. Prior to serving as the Elected Prosecutor, I was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for almost 20 years, personally prosecuting over 200 jury trials, including 53 homicides. I have also served as a Defense Attorney for 5 years. I am the current President of the Association of Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys, and a past Chair of the Indiana Prosecuting Attorney's Council.

In my pursuit of justice for my community and our families, I have come to recognize that the most vital role in any legal proceeding is that of the Presiding Judge. A Presiding Judge must not only have an acute understanding of the law, he or she must be a person of strong character, able to make difficult decisions without qualm, fanfare or undo bravado.

Those vital traits are inherent in the make-up of Judge Brisco.

I first got to know Judge Brisco while she was the City Attorney and I was prosecuting murder cases, gang related incidents and other violent crimes here in South Bend. I was able to see firsthand how Judge Brisco developed strategies to help our community; balancing the needs to protect our community with ensuring that the law was strictly followed.

When she was appointed to the St. Joseph County Superior Court, I again saw those traits that I have come to admire. Judge Brisco has that unique ability to get to the heart of any issue and do it in a way that all parties can respect. Her Judicial demeanor and character ensure that justice is served.

I do not write this letter of recommendation out of friendship. Friendship has no place in determining a Judicial Appointment. I write this letter out of a profound respect for Judge Brisco. I write this letter because there is no one more qualified to serve as the next Federal Judicial Officer for the Northern District of Indiana than Judge Cristal Brisco.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Cotter', written over a horizontal line.

Kenneth P. Cotter
Prosecuting Attorney
60th Judicial Circuit
St. Joseph County, IN