November 17, 2026

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of James Sulllivan to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

We write to support James Sullivan's nomination to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas. Each of us got to know James through our time at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit. We either clerked for Judge Thomas B. Griffith the same year as James, clerked for Judge Griffith in other years, or served as his Judicial Assistant. We had the opportunity to witness firsthand James's dedication to the practice of law and aptitude for judicial work. We have a wide range of legal and political perspectives, yet we are united in our belief that James is well qualified for the judicial position to which he has been nominated.

James's dedication to the law stood out even among the highly accomplished lawyers with whom we worked. He matched his impressive legal acumen with a tireless work ethic and good-natured collegiality. During the year he clerked, James brought the same rigorous attention to every case, irrespective of the parties or the issues involved, with attention to detail and emphasis on the correct legal precedent and principles of law. He not only ensured that the legal research, reasoning, and writing for his own cases met the highest standards for the practice of law, he also extended an open offer to be a sounding board and to assist on any other cases being handled by other clerks. For those of us that took James up on this offer, he offered thoughtful suggestions in an encouraging manner that speaks well to his likely judicial temperament. On a personal level, James brightened our chambers with his easygoing wit, warmth, and generosity.

We have no doubt that James would bring his intelligence, integrity, collegial good nature, and independence to the U.S. District Court of the Western District of Texas. We believe him to be well qualified to serve as a federal judge and hope that these reflections will aid this Committee's consideration of his nomination.

Sincerely,[*]

Bryson Bachman (Law Clerk, 2007-2008)
Brian Bieluch (Law Clerk, 2005-2006)
Brian Barnes (Law Clerk, 2010-2011)
Chris Bates (Law Clerk, 2010-2011)
Matt Berns (Law Clerk, 2009-2010)
Madhu Chugh (Law Clerk, 2008-2009)
Anthony Dick (Law Clerk, 2010-2011)
Dan Feith (Law Clerk, 2013-2014)
Sherif Girgis (Law Clerk, 2016-2017)
Michael Gottlieb (Law Clerk, 2006-2007)
Julia Haines (Law Clerk, 2017-2018)
Natalie Hausknecht (Law Clerk, 2015-2016)
France Hoang (Law Clerk, 2005-2006)
Jared Kelson (Law Clerk, 2017-2018)
Simon Latcovich (Law Clerk, 2006-2007)
Steven J. Lindsay (Law Clerk, 2017-2018)
Shiva Nagaraj (Law Clerk, 2007-2008)
Zack Parks (Law Clerk, 2005-2006)
James Phillips (Law Clerk, 2016-2017)
Haley Proctor (Law Clerk, 2012-2013)
Lindsay See (Law Clerk, 2011-2012)
Barbara Smith Tyson (Law Clerk, 2012-2013)
Mark Totten (Law Clerk, 2007-2008)
Candy Umin (Judicial Assistant, 2005-2020)
Anthony Vitarelli (Law Clerk, 2009-2010)

[*] Each of us signs in his or her personal capacity and not on behalf of any current or former employer.