November 17, 2026

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

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

Re: Nomination of James P. Sullivan to the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

We write in strong support of the nomination of Justice James P. Sullivan to the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas.

We are members of the Texas bar: trial and appellate lawyers in private practice, in government service, and in-house. Some of us have worked alongside Justice Sullivan, some have litigated against him, and many have appeared before him at the Supreme Court of Texas. [We are Republicans, Democrats, and independents, and we hold a range of views on politics and judicial philosophy.] We all agree that he has the intellect, integrity, and temperament to be an excellent federal district judge.

Justice Sullivan's record speaks for itself. He is a graduate of Rice University and Harvard Law School, where he was an editor of the *Harvard Law Review*, and he clerked for Judge Thomas B. Griffith on the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. He practiced as an appellate litigator at King & Spalding LLP, represented the State as an Assistant Solicitor General of Texas, and served for nearly seven years as Deputy General Counsel and General Counsel to the Governor. Since January 2025, he has served as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas. Few district court nominees have been advocate, counselor, and judge.

Those of us who practiced with or against him know him as a lawyer whose word could be relied on. He was always prepared, candid about the strengths and weaknesses of his position, and unfailingly courteous to opposing counsel.

He gave straight answers, and he gave them promptly. Lawyers on the other side of a matter trusted him, and that trust was never misplaced.

Those of us who have appeared before him have seen the same qualities on the bench. He comes to argument having read the briefs and the record. His questions are pointed but fair, and they are put to both sides. His opinions are clear and carefully reasoned, they follow the text and the precedent, and they tell the parties and the lower courts exactly what was decided and why. Lawyers leave his courtroom knowing that they were heard, whether or not they prevailed.

The work of a district judge is different from the work of an appellate court, and it asks for the qualities Justice Sullivan has shown throughout his career: decisiveness when time is short, patience with the parties and their counsel, and respect for every person who comes before the court. The Austin Division carries one of the most demanding dockets in Texas, and its litigants deserve a judge of his ability and work ethic. He grew up in Travis County and has made his career and his home in Austin, and he knows the community he would serve.

We are confident that Justice Sullivan will be a fair, hardworking, and principled United States District Judge. We respectfully urge the Committee to consider his nomination promptly and the Senate to confirm him.

Respectfully submitted,

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Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives

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State Representative, House District 57

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State Representative, House District 67

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