

Dowling PLLC

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May 23, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Thom Tillis, United States Senator
The Honorable Ted Budd, United States Senator
Washington, D.C.

Re: Letter in Support of Ryan Park for a Fourth Circuit Nomination

Dear President Biden, Senator Tillis, and Senator Budd:

I write to give my full support to Ryan Park to be nominated to a seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Until earlier this year, I was a partner in the Raleigh office of the national law firm Fox Rothschild LLP. In March, I left Fox to join a boutique firm, Dowling PLLC, so I could better serve my clients and partly so that I could take cases with a conservative bent that large law firms often discourage. I also serve as the President of the Triangle Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society. I offer this letter in just my personal capacity.

At both Fox and Dowling, my practice is focused almost exclusively on appellate litigation, before both state and federal appellate courts. And because Ryan has devoted his career in North Carolina to appellate litigation, first as a Deputy Solicitor and now as the Solicitor General of North Carolina, our paths have frequently crossed. Sometimes we're aligned; sometimes we're opposed.

I prefer alignment. Ryan is not just a talented writer and advocate—though he is those things. He's also strategic, tailoring his arguments to the judges he's arguing to, and fitting his arguments into shifting changes in the law. Although Ryan is a formidable advocate, being opposed to him in a case is not a miserable experience, for Ryan is exceptionally polite and professional.

I am not alone in my views of Ryan. I am well informed that many of North Carolina's conservative jurists, members of the General Assembly, and lawyers have a very favorable view of Ryan, even though they sometimes disagree with the positions that Attorney General Josh Stein has taken in a particular matter. They recognize that Ryan is a straight shooter. He will make the best arguments that he can for his position, then let the chips fall where they may. Not once have I ever heard someone speak a bad word about Ryan. If they did, it would reflect more on the speaker than on Ryan.

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Although Ryan and I may disagree on some jurisprudential matters, I know that he is open minded and willing to engage with others' viewpoints. For Ryan, law is law. It is not politics, and it is not personal. If Ryan were to become a judge, I am certain that he would give everyone before him a fair hearing.

As I said, I am currently the president of our local chapter of the Federalist Society. Ryan is a crowd favorite at our events. He has spoken at three Federalist Society events that I'm aware of, including a panel that I invited him to participate on. The board members of my chapter often clamor for more Ryan on our panels, and I'd oblige them if I didn't worry about overburdening Ryan. Even when he couldn't make a panel, he's been quick to suggest other alternatives, including his other talented deputies.

In short, Ryan has my full support for a seat on the Fourth Circuit. I encourage you to give him your full consideration.

Sincerely,



Troy Shelton

cc:

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