

October 3, 2022

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck E. Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Candidacy of Todd Edelman for U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We are long-standing members of the District of Columbia family law bar who specialize in representing victims of domestic violence, and we write, enthusiastically, to support Todd Edelman's nomination as a District Judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Each of us has appeared on behalf of victims in Judge Edelman's courtroom, in cases that meant the difference between a victim's safety and security versus her risk of serious additional harm at the hands of her abusive partner. Each of us has also observed numerous additional trials in cases where domestic violence victims were forced to appear without legal counsel.

In these D.C. Superior Court domestic violence cases, Judge Edelman won the respect and admiration of the entire legal and advocacy community. Victims of trauma, who are so often triggered or re-traumatized by the legal system, could feel confident that Judge Edelman would treat them with respect, dignity, and patience. And Judge Edelman managed to do that while also ensuring that his courtroom was one in which an atmosphere of fairness and neutrality prevailed; we know of few other judges in whom defense counsel, prosecutors, and victim advocates all have unshakeable confidence. He one of very few judges in whose courtroom all parties in highly emotionally-charged civil protection order cases, whether the victim or the accused abusive partner, feel heard, understood, and fairly treated.

Judge Edelman is enormously competent and always open to intellectual engagement. His legal judgment is reliably impressive: he never jumps to a conclusion, rigorously considering all sides of an issue before reaching a decision. He is quick to grasp the important issues in cases over which he presides, he approaches those issues quickly, and he decides them fairly.

Temperament is an important part of judging, and Judge Edelman projects infinite patience in the courtroom. He treats lawyers and litigants fairly, and is not reactive, even in the highly emotionally charged cases that regularly arise on a domestic violence

calendar. He is firm but fair, and his personal integrity is apparent from the moment he takes the bench. He is serious without taking himself too seriously.

Judge Edelman is the kind of legal professional many of us aspire to be—smart, thoughtful, compassionate, energetic, and deeply dedicated to his work. His good judgment also is grounded in his solid sense of ethics; he never deviates from his clear and profound commitment to fairness, justice, and professionalism. As lawyers who represent victims in some of the most profound moments of crisis they will experience in their lives, we can rely on Judge Edelman to ensure that their testimony will be received with compassion, engagement, and justice.

We are confident that Judge Edelman's intellect, competence, temperament, and passion for justice would be an enormous asset to the federal bench. He has our absolute confidence and strong recommendation.

Sincerely,

Professor Rachel Camp
Co-Director, Georgetown University Law Center
Domestic Violence Clinic
Director, DC Affordable Law Firm

Professor Deborah Epstein
Co-Director, Georgetown University Law Center
Domestic Violence Clinic

Professor Tianna Gibbs
Co-Director, General Practice Clinic
University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law

Professor Margaret Johnson
Associate Dean for Experiential Education
Director, Bronfein Family Law Clinic
Co-Director, Center on Applied Feminism

Su Sie Ju
Legal Director
Bread for the City

Professor Catherine Klein
Director, Columbus Community Legal Services
Columbus School of Law
Catholic University

Professor Laurie Kohn
Jacob Burns Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs
Director, Family Justice Litigation Clinic
George Washington University Law School

Karen Barker Marcou
Co-Founder, Board Chair
DC Volunteer Lawyers' Project

Sara Tennen

Executive Director
DC Volunteer Lawyers' Project