

FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER

DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

K. ANTHONY THOMAS, FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER

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January 12, 2023

Via Electronic Mail Only:

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[Brendan Chestnut@judiciary-rep.senate.gov](mailto:Brendan_Chestnut@judiciary-rep.senate.gov)

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Incoming Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: Judge Robert Kirsch's
Judicial Nomination**

Letter of Support

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Members Grassley and Graham:

I know Robert Kirsch as a friend, former adversary, and respected New Jersey Superior Court Judge. I write with great enthusiasm in support of his nomination to the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey. Judge Kirsch would be an exceptional addition to the Federal bench.

Nearly twenty-five years ago, Judge Kirsch and I crossed paths in the same Court for which he has been nominated. Judge Kirsch (just "Bobby" then) was as an Assistant United States Attorney ("AUSA"), and I was a new Assistant Federal Public Defender. Throughout his time as an AUSA, Judge Kirsch always acted honorably, even-handedly, and with the utmost integrity in representing the United States of America. Knowing Judge Kirsch was on the other side of the aisle was refreshing because I knew I would be facing a respectful listener that

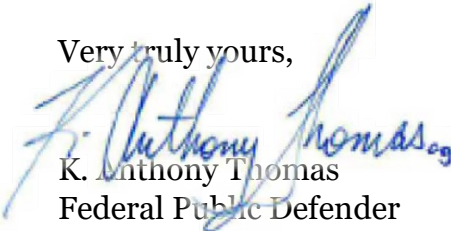
believed in equal justice under the law rather than victory at all costs. This was and remains an outstanding quality about Judge Kirsch.

Judge Kirsch exhibited the same characteristics once he transitioned to the judiciary. For example, he was instrumental in establishing a statewide juvenile reentry program and demonstrated support for Integrity House, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing thousands of individuals with therapeutic substance abuse treatment. These efforts demonstrate a nuanced approach to criminal justice, which will be critical to serving as a federal judge.

For these reasons, I believe Judge Kirsch will be a valuable addition to the federal bench of the District of New Jersey, where I continue to serve indigent defendants in my capacity as the District's Federal Public Defender.

Please do not hesitate in contacting me should you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K. Anthony Thomas" with a stylized flourish at the end.

K. Anthony Thomas
Federal Public Defender