

January 20, 2022

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

Re: Letter of Support for J. Michelle Childs' Confirmation to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

Each of us has had the honor of serving as a law clerk to Judge J. Michelle Childs of the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina over the course of her career. We write to express our proud and enthusiastic support for Judge Childs' confirmation to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

We are lawyers with diverse backgrounds, views, and experiences who all have richly benefitted from our experiences clerking in Judge Childs' chambers and the mentorship she has provided in our professional and personal lives. Among our ranks are federal prosecutors, public defenders, public interest lawyers, federal agency attorneys, law professors, partners and associates in private practice, and many who have served as law clerks to federal appellate judges. We are united in our unreserved esteem for Judge Childs as an extraordinarily talented jurist whose character, intellect, and years of dedicated public service make her eminently qualified to serve as a federal appellate judge.

In both her capacity as a state judge on the South Carolina Circuit Court and her present capacity as a District of South Carolina federal judge, Judge Childs has consistently demonstrated a devotion to the faithful interpretation of the law. She regularly presides over complex litigation matters that draw on her intellectual rigor, wisdom, and principles of fairness. Throughout her outstanding career as a jurist, Judge Childs has diligently applied the law equally to all persons appearing before her and has worked to ensure that every litigant feels heard by the justice system. In every decision she issues, for example, Judge Childs strives to carefully explain why the result was merited in a way that every litigant can understand.

Judge Childs' steadfast devotion to the rule of law is matched by the vigor with which she serves the legal community. In addition to her large caseload, Judge Childs has served as a multi-district litigation judge and as a visiting judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. She is also demonstrably committed to the education and betterment of the broader legal community outside her courtroom. Judge Childs maintains a robust, year-round internship and externship program within her chambers to ensure that talented law students from across the country are exposed to the work of the federal judiciary. She has been an active member of countless organizations within the legal profession, including the American Bar Association where she most recently served as the chair of the Judicial Division. Furthermore, Judge Childs regularly speaks to and engages with various audiences. Whether presenting on an e-discovery issue or

providing the commencement address for the University of South Carolina, Judge Childs lives out her passion for advancing her professional community.

Judge Childs' professional background is complemented by her shining personality. Her confidence and outgoing nature model her belief that one can never stop learning from new people and experiences. The kindness and respect Judge Childs shows each person who steps into her courtroom, regardless of background or circumstance, is how she treats everyone with whom she comes in contact. Moreover, her work ethic is second to none. Making the most of every minute, Judge Childs calls her law clerks each day during her morning commute to discuss issues. Despite long days in court, she willingly devotes a significant amount of personal time to ensure the timely resolution of motions and cases, all while balancing an active and loving home life with her husband, Floyd, and daughter, Juliana.

Judge Childs has made a lasting impact on our lives. While other judges refer to their former clerks as their law clerk "network," Judge Childs refers to us as her law clerk "family." And rightly so. When she hired each of us, she immediately offered to help us secure housing and connect us with various support networks within the Columbia community. More importantly, she personally supported us within her chambers. When we passed the bar exam, Judge Childs was the first one to congratulate us and tell us to call our families with the good news. She and her family would regularly open their home to us for warm dinners and send us home with food and encouragement. Even now, Judge Childs always makes time to share advice, as she remains invested in our careers well beyond our clerkships with her. As we often say, Judge Childs has higher expectations for her clerks than we do for ourselves. Judge Childs' continued support of each of us exemplifies her motto of "holding the ladder down." She has done exactly that for us and so many others, all while remaining true to her humble beginnings.

In sum, we are all honored to have clerked for Judge Childs. Her wealth of experience, legal acumen, and personability would make her an exceptional judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

We offer our unconditional support of her nomination and urge you to confirm her.

Respectfully,

John Belinga
Ethan Bercot
Meliah Bowers Jefferson
Mitchell Brown
Ralph Culpepper
Judea Davis
Aisha Dennis
Kiosha Dickey
Amber Hendrick
Diana Idiaghe
Marshall James

Rachel Lewis
David Lyon
Michonne L. Omo
Brence Pernell
Naki Richardson-Bax
Lana Robins
Nicole Simpson
Colton Tully-Doyle
Amelia Waring
Jonathan M. Warren
Kate Weaver Patterson