

March 21, 2023

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
Sarah_Bauer@judiciary-dem.senate.gov

The Honorable Lindsay Graham
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
Brendan_Chestnut@judiciary-rep.senate.gov

Re: Magistrate Judge S. Kato Crews Nomination to the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado

Dear Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

Statute requires that all United States Judges take an oath of office. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 435 (West 2022). As part of that oath, each new judge states: “I will administer justice without respect to persons, and do equal right to the poor and to the rich, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent upon me[.]” 28 U.S.C § 435. Kato Crews’ career as a U.S. Magistrate Judge, community leader, and mentor is a sterling example of the judicial oath in action. It is our collective belief that he will continue to set the standard for judicial excellence as a District Court Judge.

Magistrate Judge Crews would make a remarkable District Court Judge because of his organized and measured approach to each matter before him. Through his leadership and mentorship, he continues to instill in each of us a dedication to the rule of law and to the people interacting with it, such as litigants, attorneys, and judges. He encourages us to approach each new issue with an unmatched vigor, thoroughness, and, importantly, our individual lived experiences. As a Magistrate Judge, he often remarks on his role as the first, and perhaps only, face litigants encounter during the emotional, and sometimes traumatic, experience of seeking recourse or defending oneself through the legal system. His meticulous attention to the factual details and legal nuances of every case reminds us that, as officers of the court, we owe it to the communities we serve to set aside bias and to dedicate ample time to providing everyone an equal opportunity before the law.

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When he applied for his current role, Judge Crews did so not out of ambition, but out of a sense of duty to the legal profession and a desire to have a meaningful impact on the state of Colorado – the community that helped raise him. Choosing community over oneself, is what the late Justice Ginsburg said defines a “true professional” and a “meaningful life.” To be sure, one need not look beyond the District of Colorado’s courthouse to find an example of Judge Crews’ community stewardship. In October 2019, barely a year into his judicial tenure, Judge Crews began developing an initiative that provides limited scope representation to pro se litigants in the District of Colorado. The Federal Limited Appearance Program launched in November 2020 and, since then, has provided myriad litigants with valuable legal assistance in the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado. Furthermore, the impact of Judge Crews’ guidance and mentorship is evident from the careers of those he has supported, including numerous first-generation attorneys who have become civil rights advocates, judicial law clerks, non-profit board members, and community leaders in their own rights.

“None of us got where we are solely by pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps.” Justice Thurgood Marshall’s words ring true for each of the undersigned former law clerks, employees, staff, and mentees, of Magistrate Judge S. Kato Crews. We can all attest to his abiding devotion to seeing each of us find our confidence as individuals and as legal advocates. He has taken a special interest in each of our lives and goals, and has given countless hours of his time and resources in service of aiding our development. For us, it was not “an Ivy League crony or a few nuns” that helped pull us up by our bootstraps, but instead the untold hours U.S. Magistrate Judge S. Kato Crews spent listening, counseling, and guiding us, as we honed our crafts.

It is with immense gratitude and distinct honor that we now take hold of S. Kato Crews’ bootstraps in support of his nomination for the position of District Judge on the United States District Court for the District of Colorado.

Sincerely,



Philip D. Nickerson, Esq, *signing on behalf and with the consent of:*

Marquiel Cade, Esq.

Cara Groseth, Esq.

Jessamyn Jones, Esq.

Claudia Shadler, Esq.

Crist Whitney, Esq.

Rose Zetzman, Esq.

Daphne Barrera, Student

Michelle Medrano, Student

Camille Moore, Student

Andre Milton, Student

Yasmine Lawson, Student

Joanna Mendy, Student

Connor Moore, Student