

Supreme Court of Colorado

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MONICA M. MÁRQUEZ
JUSTICE

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March 16, 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 Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
Brendan_Chestnut@judiciary-rep.senate.gov

Re: Letter of Recommendation for Magistrate Judge S. Kato Crews

Dear Senator Durbin and Senator Graham:

It is again my great pleasure to recommend Magistrate Judge S. Kato Crews for the upcoming vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado. Magistrate Judge Crews's background and experience make him an excellent candidate for the position. Colorado would be extraordinarily lucky to have him as a district court judge on our federal bench.

I have known Kato for more than a decade. We have crossed paths in multiple contexts in the legal community in Denver, often through community projects serving our diverse attorneys and law students. Kato was a member of the inaugural class of the Colorado Bar Association Leadership Training (COBALT) Program – a program that has produced a number of outstanding community leaders and judges, including two of my current colleagues on the Colorado Supreme Court (Justices William Hood and Melissa Hart). I have come to know and admire many COBALT graduates, and Kato is one of COBALT's superstars. He has remained deeply committed to the community throughout his career, devoting time from his busy schedule to mentor younger attorneys, serving on bar association and community boards, and sharing his wisdom through a host of continuing legal education programs, articles, and

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countless speaking engagements over the years. In that vein, he is launching a new, informal mentoring program for diverse law students called Crews' Crew Chit Chats – quarterly conversations in chambers with Magistrate Judge Crews and a guest diverse judicial officer or attorney, accompanied by cookies, of course (or some comparable, deliberately unhealthy snack).

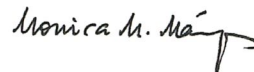
Over the past two years, I have had the pleasure of working directly with Kato through the Colorado Supreme Court's Judicial Well-Being (JWB) Committee. I serve as the chair of that Committee, which is an outgrowth of the [Colorado Supreme Court's Task Force on Lawyer Well-Being](#). Our [judicial well-being website](#) provides a host of resources for judicial officers not only in Colorado, but across the country.

The JWB Committee reached out across the state to recruit representatives from all of Colorado's judicial districts as well as our federal district court. Kato volunteered to serve on the Committee and has been involved with a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) working group that is exploring the interplay between DEI and well-being. Without question, judicial officer well-being continues to be impacted by the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the social and civil unrest sparked by the events of the summer of 2020 have highlighted the intersectionality between DEI and well-being for our diverse judicial officers. Kato has been a committed member of the JWB Committee, sharing ideas from the federal courts with those of us in the state court system, and partnering in our efforts to support a significant number of new, diverse judicial officers on our state bench. I am grateful for his insight, support, and commitment.

Kato's devotion to his community is surpassed only by his incredible work ethic. His discipline and efficiency consistently amaze me. By all accounts, he is doing an outstanding job in his current role. In my own encounters with him, he is always thoroughly prepared for every meeting, every panel, every presentation. Importantly, Kato is a man of impeccable character. He exudes judicial temperament – in spades. He is thoughtful, calm, measured, and professional, even under challenging or frustrating circumstances.

In the decade or so that I have known Kato, I have been impressed by his poise and the humility with which he approaches his work for the public and for the legal profession. He is a true public servant and an ideal judicial officer. Kato would be an outstanding federal district court judge and would hit the ground running. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,



Justice Monica M. Márquez