

May 19, 2021

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VIA E-MAIL & U.S. MAIL

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support for Federal Judicial Nominee Lauren King

Dear Senators Durbin and Grassley:

It is with great enthusiasm and pride that I support the nomination of Lauren King for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington in Seattle. I write in my capacity as a federal court practitioner in Seattle, as one of Lauren's colleagues in the local bar, and as the co-chair of the Washington Leadership Institute ("WLI"), where I first met Lauren.

The WLI is a leadership training program that was created by the Washington State Bar Association as a vehicle for accelerating the skill, maturation, and professional network of young diverse lawyers who are selected annually from a highly competitive statewide pool of applicants because they show signs of excellence within the profession. Lauren was selected for the program and successfully completed the eight-month curriculum in August 2012. Over the course of those eight months, I had the opportunity to interact with and observe Lauren engage on challenging issues, such as how leaders should deal with chaos, how they should handle ethical dilemmas faced in public service, and how to address racial, gender, and sexual preference discrimination within the legal profession. Since her graduation from the WLI, I have had the opportunity to observe Lauren masterfully build a first-class commercial litigation law practice while also focusing on issues of concern to the Native American legal community.

Based on my personal and professional experience with Lauren, there are three reasons why she will make an outstanding federal court judge and bring great credit to the State of Washington:

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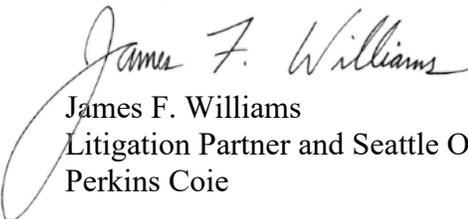
1. **Lauren Listens Deeply and Thoughtfully Before Speaking** – The best judges are those who come to the table with open minds, a willingness to fully hear all sides, and clear thoughts on the key legal issues presented. Lauren has always been a deep listener, a clear thinker, and an articulate spokesperson. With those instinctive qualities, she will quickly and comfortably fit into the federal district court position.

2. **Lauren Has the Necessary Intellectual Gravitas and Experience** – Our federal courts handle the most sophisticated and complicated litigation found anywhere in the world. This means that we sorely need people with the intelligence to do the legal analysis and produce opinions that are well written and show a mastery of the controversies that come before the court. Lauren has consistently shown that she has the intellectual gravitas needed for a federal court position. Indeed, she started her legal career as a graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law and since 2012 has practiced at the Seattle office of the prestigious Foster Garvey PC law firm, where she is currently a principal and the chair of the Native American Law Practice Group. Moreover, Lauren would come to the federal district court with prior judicial experience, having served as a pro tem appellate judge for the Northwest Intertribal Court System since 2013.

3. **Lauren Has Visibility and Credibility Within the State's Legal Community** – Lauren is authentic, is justifiably proud of her Native heritage, and is firmly rooted in our state's legal community. She is consistently recognized by her peers in industry publications such as *Super Lawyers* and *The Best Lawyers in America*® for her work in non-Native litigation matters and in Native American law. Lauren dedicates a significant amount of her time to public service. She currently serves as a commissioner on the Washington State Gambling Commission and as a member of the Muscogee Reservation Protection Commission. Lauren is deeply involved with the state and local bar organizations. For example, she served on the board of the Northwest Tribal Court Judges Association and as chair of the Washington State Bar Association Indian Law Section Board. Lauren is also connected to our local law school community through the Federal Indian Law course she teaches as an adjunct professor at Seattle University School of Law.

In sum, the Senate Judiciary Committee rarely sees a lawyer with the personal background, professional experience, and exceptional qualifications for the federal bench that Lauren has. I urge you to vote in favor of her nomination and to encourage your colleagues to do the same.

Best regards,



James F. Williams
Litigation Partner and Seattle Office Managing Partner
Perkins Coie