June 5, 2026

Miriam L. Siefer
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The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nomination of Michael Martin to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin,

As the former Executive Director of the Federal Community Defender Office for the Eastern District of Michigan (1995-2020), I can recommend without reservation Mr. Michael Martin for the position of United States District Court Judge.

I personally litigated several cases against Mr. Martin. He was always well prepared and professional in his demeanor. He possesses all the attributes one looks for in a highly qualified district court judge; trial experience, even keeled temperament, and a fine legal intellect. Of equal importance, in his position as Chief of this District's Criminal Division, Mr. Martin also demonstrates an ability to be fair.

As a federal prosecutor, Mr. Martin wields immense powers within the criminal justice system. He determines the target of prosecution, the nature of offenses to charge, and advocates for a particular sentence when a case is successfully prosecuted. As Chief of the Criminal Division, he is responsible for the line assistants who are making these decisions on a daily basis. His job demands a person of unquestioned integrity, a person with a strong sense of fairness, and a person who will judiciously exercise his or her discretionary powers. Mr. Martin possesses all these qualities, along with the practical expertise honed through years of courtroom litigation and the administrative experience necessary to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of a district court judge.

Finally, Mr. Martin firmly demonstrated that he understands and appreciates the defense function in our adversarial system. On more than one occasion he brought to my attention his concerns that a court appointed attorney was not meeting his constitutional obligation to provide effective representation, which afforded me the opportunity to rectify the situation.

I urge the Committee to report Mr. Martin's nomination favorably and the Senate confirm him to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Respectfully,

Miriam Siefer

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