

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Chair, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC

Re: Nomination of Nina Morrison to be United States District Judge

Dear Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

My name is John Nolley and I spent almost 19 years in prison for a crime I did not commit in Tarrant County, Texas. Nina Morrison was my attorney at the Innocence Project, and she is the reason that I am free today and have a life and family. Her dedication to justice, fairness and the pursuit of truth would make her an excellent judge.

At the age of 23, I was wrongfully convicted of murdering my friend Sharon McLane. Being sent to prison as an innocent person felt like I had been kidnapped. I knew the truth and kept fighting for my freedom, but the courts kept denying me at every turn. There were times when it felt like no one would ever listen, and my cause was hopeless.

That all changed when Nina took my case. She believed in me, and worked tirelessly to uncover evidence, talk to witnesses and piece together the proof of my innocence. There was no stone left unturned, and her diligence and persistence are why I am free today. Having her with me in court on the day that I was officially exonerated meant the world to me. She is my angel, and part of my family.

Nina has been there for me as I've rebuilt my life after exoneration. Reentering the world after nearly two decades is difficult. She played a critical role in making sure I had support and resources to restart after being incarcerated. Nina got me involved in policy advocacy, which allows me to use my story to change laws in Texas and prevent what happened in my case from happening to others.

Since returning home in 2016, I got married and had a son. My family would not exist without Nina. She helped me to build a legacy, and the impact she has on exonerees will extend through generations.

Nina Morrison would be the kind of judge that sees those in her courtroom as human beings. She would be relentless in her commitment to fairness and justice.

Sincerely,

John Nolley

CC: Senator John Cornyn and Senator Ted Cruz