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February 4, 2022

VIA FEDEX

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

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nomination of Arianna Freeman

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I write in support of the nomination of Arianna Freeman to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. I was a district court judge in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania when she was my law clerk from 2007 until 2008 when I stepped down from the Bench. I worked closely with her and developed opinions about her character, work ethic, judgment, objectivity, sense of fairness and dedication to the principles of equal justice for all and the rule of law. In sum, I grade her as excellent in all categories.

Upon my resignation, fellow District Judge Darnell Jones was fortunate to secure her as his senior law clerk for the additional year she had previously committed to me. She too was fortunate to have had the privilege of clerking for Judge Jones who is a magnificent jurist. I maintained contact with Ms. Freeman following her clerkship. She has been a consistent co-planner of the annual law clerk reunion.

I served in the Eastern District for almost 29 years. For seven of those, from 2000 through 2007, I was Chief Judge. During that time, the district was blessed with 30 busy trial judges. That number included 10 hardworking senior judges. The district was often selected as one of the pilot districts for civil case management reforms aimed at achieving greater efficiencies in moving cases to trial.

I placed clerk hiring emphasis on academic achievement, writing ability, overcoming life obstacles, even bar exams, and ability to work collaboratively and harmoniously with Chambers staff. I selected Ms. Freeman because, by resume and interview, she fit the bill. Within a short

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time, as I hoped, she was performing at a high level of proficiency and productivity. She proved to be well-organized, prompt in completion of assignments and a joy to have in Chambers.

My law clerks had memoranda responsibilities only in civil cases, although they observed the courtroom proceedings in civil and criminal cases when not otherwise obligated. The civil docket consisted of most of the kinds of cases in the federal court system, from large and complex business matters to the pro se civil rights case. Ms. Freeman was assigned an equal number of the cases divided between three clerks. She had detailed discussions with me about each case as it was readied for trial or disposition by motion. She drafted memoranda and proposed orders for my consideration. She sat in on pretrial, discovery and settlement conferences. She observed jury trials and helped finalize jury instructions. She read all precedential Third Circuit opinions as well as pertinent published opinions of our district judges.

She also had law clerk duties relative to a small docket of cases assumed from the District of the Virgin Islands to which I was designated visiting judge by the Third Circuit.

Ms. Freeman has the character and intellectual attributes that will lead her to be a wonderful appeals court judge. She is discerning, open-minded, logical and is both a listener and contributor to debate and conversation.

She will discharge faithfully all the duties of the office of judge of the Third Circuit and be collegial and courteous in doing so.

For these reasons, enthusiastically, I endorse the nomination of Arianna Freeman and urge her confirmation.

Sincerely,



James T. Giles