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December 6, 2022

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin, Chairman  
The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member  
United States Senate, Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: Honorable Andrew Schopler**

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

I write to offer my strongest support for the nomination of Magistrate Judge Andrew Schopler to serve as a federal District Judge for the Southern District of California.

During my 42 years of military service, I served with and led hundreds of junior officers in the U.S. Army, California Army National Guard, and I state without reservation that Judge Schopler was not only one of the best JAG officers that served with me but without a doubt the best junior officer with whom I ever served.

As a Commanding General, I first met Judge Schopler in 2015 when he was assigned to advise my command. Although Judge Schopler was only a First Lieutenant with less than a year of military experience, he immediately inspired absolute confidence and trust with his keen intellect, clear advice, and sound judgment.

At the end of our tour together, I informed Judge Schopler's superiors that he should be immediately promoted ahead of his peers. Furthermore, because of his unparalleled leadership, phenomenal legal skills, consistent perfect Physical Fitness Test scores, and unwavering integrity, I unequivocally supported Judge Schopler's placement as acting Brigade Judge Advocate of our Special Operations Detachment, in a position three pay grades above his rank. While serving in that challenging assignment, which involved advising a Green Beret Colonel, he surpassed all my highest expectations.

I still vividly remember greeting Judge Schopler in 2018 at Fort Bragg upon his return from his overseas combat deployment with the Special Operations Detachment. By all accounts, his contributions were absolutely crucial to the unit's highly effective deployment, which earned Judge Schopler a Bronze Star. I am not alone in my assessment of Judge Schopler's superlative abilities. The top Army JAG leaders consistently describe him as an invaluable member and future leader of the JAG Corps. The same qualities—intellect, honor, courage, and commitment—that have made him so effective while serving our nation in uniform and in his civilian career will undoubtedly make him even more effective while serving our nation as a federal District Judge.

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If you need any more information about this extraordinary judicial nominee, please contact me anytime. Judge Schopler has earned my very highest personal and professional recommendation.

Sincerely,

*Mark Malanka*

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