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December 14, 2021

The Honorable Dick Durbin  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nevada Judicial Nominees Judge Cristina Silva and Professor Anne Traum

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I write to express my strong support for the timely confirmation of judicial nominees Judge Cristina Silva and Professor Anne Traum to serve as United States District Judges for the U.S. District Court, District of Nevada.

I served as the 2020-2021 National President of the Federal Bar Association (FBA) and have been a member of the FBA's Board of Directors for over a decade. I was previously appointed Chairman of the FBA's Government Relations Committee for seven years. Through this service, I've become familiar with the qualities and characteristics necessary to be a United States District Judge. I encourage members of the Senate Judiciary Committee and all U.S. Senators to promptly confirm Judge Silva and Professor Traum, two highly qualified judicial nominees, to serve as U.S. District Judge in Las Vegas and Reno, respectively. The citizens of Nevada, my home state, desperately need these judicial positions filled. Nevada has had at least one Federal Court judicial vacancy for nearly six years, including a United States Courts declared "judicial emergency" since 2017.

My professional responsibilities in the law in have given me the unique opportunity to work with many of our best federal judges throughout the United States. In 2013, it was my opportunity to testify before the United States Senate Judiciary, Subcommittee on Bankruptcy and the Courts, along with Sixth Circuit Appellate Court Judge Julia S. Gibbons regarding sequestration and its effect upon our Federal Courts. I have met with leaders on Capitol Hill and at The White House regarding the importance of strengthening the quality and independence of our federal judiciary. Without reservation, I find Judge Silva and Professor Traum to be extraordinary examples among all federal judges due to their keen intellect, unquestionable dedication to the law, and respectful demeanor. They are nonpartisan legal professionals and represent the very best of what citizens should be to serve the people of the United States of America.

Judge Cristina Silva currently serves as a Nevada District Judge for the Eighth Judicial District Court in Clark County, Nevada. Previously, she was a highly respected prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Nevada and in Florida. As a member of the bipartisan judicial commission who interviewed Judge Silva and many of her past associates, I confirm that she was recommended without reservation to serve as a federal judge by all of her former Assistant U.S. Attorneys and Federal Public Defender colleagues. That alone is a remarkable achievement and speaks to her fairness and remarkable legal ability. Judge Silva is a leader who is respected by all, and who treats everyone equally under the law.

Professor Anne Traum, likewise, is a former Assistant U.S. Attorney and Federal Public Defender. She is a leader in access to justice causes and in helping pro se individuals. She actively seeks to improve indigent defense reform while she teaches law students on Federal Courts, Criminal Procedure. She also co-directs the UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law Misdemeanor Clinic and directs the school's Appellate Clinic. Professor Traum's articles cover a variety of legal topics, including federal courts, federal sentencing, guilty pleas, and constitutional law. Her articles have been published in various, highly respected legal outlets, including the Cornell Law Review, Cardoza Law Review, and Hasting Law Journal.

Judge Silva and Professor Traum both represent the very highest standard of excellence and professionalism within our U.S. legal community. They will be wise, honest, and thoughtful jurists committed to equal justice under the law. Both candidates are patient, courteous, and respectful to others. In short, Judge Silva and Professor Traum possess all of the very best virtues and characteristics we hope for in our nation's leaders, especially the remarkable men and women who will serve our nation on its federal judiciary.

It is for these and additional reasons that I recommend to you without reservation Judge Cristina Silva and Professor Anne Traum as individuals well qualified to serve on the United States District Court, District of Nevada. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. West Allen".

W. West Allen, Esq.

cc: The Honorable U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto  
The Honorable U.S. Senator Jacky S. Rosen