



PRESIDENT
RAKIM BROOKS

CHAIR
PAULETTE MEYER

July 12, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairman Durbin:

On behalf of the Alliance for Justice (AFJ), a national association representing more than 130 public interest and civil rights organizations, I write to strongly support the confirmation of Judge Doris L. Pryor to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Throughout her varied legal career as a public defender, prosecutor, and federal judge, Judge Pryor has consistently demonstrated a commitment to equal justice. Now, after serving for more than four years as a federal magistrate judge for the Southern District of Indiana, Judge Pryor is extremely qualified to join the Circuit Court.

Judge Pryor comes from a [family of public servants](#) with deep roots in her hometown of Hope, Arkansas, and has prioritized public service and justice throughout her career. After graduating from Indiana University Maurer School of Law, Judge Pryor gained rich experience within the federal judicial system by clerking for Chief Judge Lavenski R. Smith of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit and Judge J. Leon Holmes of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas. Following her clerkships, Judge Pryor continued to serve Arkansas as a Deputy Public Defender, working tirelessly to protect the civil and constitutional rights of vulnerable clients such as juveniles and people in mental health guardianships.

After serving as a public defender, Judge Pryor transitioned into a prosecutorial role by joining the Department of Justice as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana. In 2014, she was elevated to the District's National Security Chief, where she excelled in handling complex issues with major implications for American national security including domestic terrorism, counterespionage, and terrorism financing. Judge Pryor gained substantial trial and appellate experience as a prosecutor, trying eight cases to verdict — seven of which were in federal court — and briefing and arguing seven federal appeals.

In 2017, Judge Pryor was selected to serve as a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Southern District of Indiana, and she assumed office on March 1, 2018. In her more than four years as a federal judge she has presided over hundreds of conflicts, including hearings and settlement conferences in civil matters and initial proceedings in criminal cases. Judge Pryor's experience as both a defense attorney and prosecutor has made her a skilled and

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evenhanded adjudicator, as evidenced by the fact that a reviewing judge has sustained objections to her decisions on only two occasions.

In addition to the professional diversity that Judge Pryor would bring to the Seventh Circuit, she would be the first woman of color from Indiana elevated to this position and just the second judge of color currently sitting on the court. Since her nomination, Judge Pryor has received support from across the political spectrum, including from current Indiana Republican Senator Todd Young, who [endorsed](#) her as “a public servant of the highest caliber . . . [whose] legal experience and expertise would make her an asset to the Seventh Circuit.”

Judge Pryor would bring an important voice to the bench as a Black woman who has laudably served on both sides of the criminal justice system. Given her exemplary qualifications and abiding commitment to equal justice for all Americans, the Senate should swiftly confirm Judge Doris Pryor to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Sincerely,

Rakim H.D. Brooks

Rakim Brooks
President, Alliance for Justice