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PRESIDENT
RAKIM BROOKS

CHAIR
PAULETTE MEYER

June 20, 2024

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 150 public interest and civil rights organizations, I write to express our strong support for Karla M. Campbell's nomination to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Campbell is a renowned Nashville litigator who would bring over a decade of employment and labor law experience to the federal bench. We are extremely pleased to see an attorney of Campbell's caliber nominated for this prestigious position.

Campbell earned her B.A. from the University of Virginia (UVA) in 2002 and her J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center in 2008, receiving distinguished awards for excellence at both academic institutions. Prior to law school, she volunteered with the Peace Corps in Ecuador, earning a certificate in Refugee and Humanitarian Emergencies. Following law school, she joined the firm Watson & Renner, in addition to serving as an International Affairs Specialist for the United States Department of the Interior. In 2009, Campbell was selected to join the first cohort of clerks for incoming Sixth Circuit Judge Jane Brantstetter Stranch. Notably, Campbell is now nominated to fill Judge Stranch's circuit court seat.

After her clerkship, Campbell joined the firm Stranch Jennings & Garvey (then Brantstetter Stranch & Jennings) as an associate. For the past 13 years, Campbell has worked her way up the firm ladder, being elevated first to Partner and then to her current role: Of Counsel. Campbell is among the most well-respected plaintiff's side employment and labor law attorneys in the nation and has expertise in everything from employee benefits cases to workers compensation disputes. Currently, only 10 Circuit Court judges have experience in economic justice law. Campbell's confirmation would go a long way to increasing the professional diversity of our circuit courts – courts that handle thousands of employment and labor law cases each year.

Campbell's confirmation would also bring important demographic diversity to the bench. Only 31% of judges on the Sixth Circuit are women – far below the 50% we would expect of a representative court. Further, as of 2023, a mere 32% of all federal judges were women, meaning that Campbell would not only

bring needed gender diversity to the Sixth Circuit but to the federal bench as a whole. There is a long way to go when it comes to seeing full gender parity on our courts, but Campbell's nomination is an important step in the right direction.

In conclusion, we urge the Senate to move swiftly to confirm Karla Campbell to the Sixth Circuit. Campbell is a tremendously well-qualified nominee with the legal expertise and talent required of a federal judge. We are thrilled to see a nominee like Karla Campbell nominated to the Sixth Circuit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rakim H.D. Brooks".

Rakim Brooks
President, Alliance for Justice