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July 31, 2024

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairman Durbin:

On behalf of the Alliance for Justice (AFJ), a national association representing over 130 public interest and civil rights organizations, I write to express our strong support for the confirmation of Ryan Park to the United States District Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Park, a testament to the American dream as the son of Korean immigrants, carries a wealth of legal experience and a steadfast dedication to public service. His track record exemplifies a commitment to justice and fairness, making him an excellent addition to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

A distinguished legal professional, Park's experience, brilliance, dedication to justice, and expertise make him exceptionally qualified to serve on the Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. After graduating with top honors from Harvard Law School and excelling at Amherst College, Park began his legal journey by honing his skills under the mentorship of distinguished judges at both the trial and appellate levels, including Jed S. Rakoff on the Southern District of New York, and Robert Katzmann on the Second Circuit. His impressive clerkship trajectory continued with two eminent justices on the United States Supreme Court, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and David Souter, who were respectively nominated by a Democratic and Republican president. These clerkships not only showcase Park's unquestionable legal acumen, but they also highlight his commitment to learning from the best in the field to develop a unique understanding of the federal judicial system.

Park's journey in law and public service is marked by varied experiences and remarkable milestones. Before law school, he served as a paralegal at the U.S. Department of Justice and dedicated time as a volunteer intake counselor for D.C. Superior Court in the Domestic Violence Unit. He then followed his Second Circuit clerkship by serving as an attorney-adviser at the State Department, specializing in international property law. In private practice, he honed his expertise in federal courts as a litigation associate for Boies Schiller & Flexner, where his work as lead counsel challenging a company's discriminatory leave policy was honored by the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights. After transitioning back to public service first as North Carolina's deputy solicitor general and then solicitor general, Park argued over 25 cases at all levels of state and federal court, including multiple cases in front of the U.S. Supreme Court. His work representing North Carolina has received the utmost praise from the state's legal community for the better part of a decade.

Beyond his impactful legal career, Park's influence extends to academia, where he serves as a respected lecturer at both Duke University and the University of North Carolina School of Law. His multifaceted contributions exemplify a deep-seated passion for advancing legal education and fostering the next generation of legal professionals. His contributions to legal discourse also extend far beyond the courtroom, with published works in esteemed publications like the Atlantic, the New York Times, and the Washington Post. His writings, including a notable piece addressing the imperative of diversity in state supreme courts and a New York Times piece explicating his background as a second-generation Asian-American immigrant and parent, exemplify his commitment to fostering inclusivity and equity within the legal sphere.

Ryan Park stands out as an exceptionally qualified judicial nominee whose career uniquely blends remarkable legal expertise with an exemplary record of public service. We strongly urge the Senate to confirm Ryan Park to the District Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit without delay, where his dedication to equal justice under law will leave a lasting and positive impact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keith Thirion".

Keith Thirion
Interim Co-President, Alliance for Justice