

February 3, 2022

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Room S-221, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Room S-230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Durbin, and Ranking Member Grassley:

We are former United States Attorneys and Assistant United States Attorneys in the District of South Carolina, and we were appointed during both Democratic and Republican Administrations. We write this letter to offer our wholehearted support for the nomination of the Honorable J. Michelle Childs to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Prior to Judge Childs' appointment as a U.S. District Court Judge, she served with distinction as a South Carolina Circuit Judge. Some of us handled complicated and significant civil and criminal cases before Judge Childs in state court, and she was most definitely the "best of the best" of the state judiciary. As a state court judge, Judge Childs worked extremely hard, and she produced timely, thoughtful, and fair decisions in both civil and criminal cases.

When she became a U.S. District Judge, her reputation preceded her. Judge Childs brought a strong work ethic and penchant for thoughtful and well-reasoned opinions in civil and criminal cases. Many of us have appeared before Judge Childs in criminal and civil matters in federal court, and she has displayed a commitment to civility and fairness. Her judicial temperament is exceptional, and she is fair to criminal defense lawyers, prosecutors, and civil litigants alike.

In the criminal cases, Judge Childs treats everyone the same in her courtroom -- be it prosecutor or defense lawyer. She understands that it is essential to the rule of law that lawyers be allowed to zealously represent their clients. Not only is Judge Childs fair to all lawyers, but she treats criminal defendants and victims with the utmost respect. Her professionalism and kindness have been a model for several recent federal judicial appointments in South Carolina, and she is admired throughout the state bar.

Many of us have appeared before Judge Childs, and we have witnessed her intellect, temperament, and fairness in every matter before her. What we have observed is an unflappable demeanor and a willingness to consider each party's position fully and fairly before reaching a decision. We sign this bipartisan letter because we know these qualities will be brought to bear as a member of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Respectfully submitted, we are

E. Bart Daniel
USA from 1989 to 1992
AUSA 1982 to 1986

John S. Simmons
USA from 1992 to 1993
AUSA 1990 to 1992

J. Preston “Pete” Strom, Jr.
USA from 1993 to 1996

William N. “Bill” Nettles
USA from 2010 to 2016

Peter M. McCoy, Jr.
USA from 2020 to 2021

M. Rhett DeHart
AUSA from 2001 to 2018
Acting USA 2021

Jonathan S. “Johnny” Gasser
AUSA from 2002 to 2005
Acting USA from 2005 to 2006

Beattie B. Ashmore
AUSA from 1990 to 1996

Marshall T. “Matt” Austin
AUSA from 2014 to 2020

Deborah B. “Debbie” Barbier
AUSA from 1996 to 2011

John M. Barton
AUSA from 1984 to 2005

Tina M. Cundari
AUSA from 2018 to 2021

Clarence Davis
AUSA from 1989 to 1991

James M. “Jim” Griffin
AUSA from 1992 to 1994

J. Brady Hair
AUSA from 1991 to 1995

Gregory P. “Greg” Harris
AUSA from 1989 to 1993

Matthew R. “Matt” Hubbell
AUSA from 1991 to 2000

William C. “Will” Lewis
AUSA from 2016 to 2019

James H. “Jim” May
AUSA from 2012 to 2021

Jason P. Peavy
AUSA from 2019 to 2021

A. Peter Shahid, Jr.
AUSA from 1988 to 1997

F. Xavier Starkes
AUSA from 1992 to 1993

Derk Van Raalte, IV
AUSA 2002

Nancy C. Wicker
AUSA from 1993 to 2020