

Georgia Association  
of  
Criminal Defense Lawyers

215 Church Street, Suite 111  
Decatur, GA 30030  
(404) 248-1777

November 22, 2021

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  
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Re: Nominee Sarah Elisabeth Geraghty

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

The Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (GACDL) writes because we believe that Sarah Elisabeth Geraghty is extremely well-qualified and would be an excellent addition to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. Sarah is a long-time GACDL member and it has been a privilege to witness her exceptional legal prowess during her career at the Atlanta-based Southern Center for Human Rights (SCHR).

In her two decades at the SCHR, Sarah's practice has been characterized by a commitment to fairness, equity, professionalism, and compassion. Sarah has frequently been the advocate to stand on behalf of people society often discounts and consistently manifests an ability to exercise forbearance under provocation, engaging with the court and her colleagues at the Bar with humility and poise undergirded with cunning intellect and unwavering integrity. It is for just these reasons that GACDL honored Sarah with its Indigent Defense Award in 2011 recognizing her unique and exemplary contributions to the criminal legal landscape and the men and woman daily impacted by the criminal legal system, especially those without fiscal means to hire counsel.

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Since completing her post-graduate education at the University of Michigan Law School and School of Social Work in the late nineties, where she earned both Juris Doctor and Master of Social Work degrees, the majority of Sarah's legal practice has been within the criminal legal system. This long-term investment has allowed her a broad variety of litigation experience including briefing and arguing criminal appeals as well as criminal trial, immigration, family law, civil rights, habeas corpus, and class action litigation in both federal and state courts. This expansive practice experience will certainly inform her fair and impartial administration of justice.

Sarah's reputation is one of thoughtfulness of her colleagues and adversaries alike, deliberate consideration of the legal intricacies in her cases, and a broad-minded willingness to consider perspectives different from her own. Sarah is a judicial candidate your committee can have confidence confirming because her outstanding character, work ethic, and professionalism will guide her fair and impartial application of the law to all parties who before her.

GACDL wholeheartedly knows that Sarah's appointment to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia would benefit the judicial system.

Respectfully submitted,



Kimberly A. Dymecki  
President

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Re: Nominee Victoria Calvert

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

The Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers was pleased with the nomination of Federal Defender Victoria Calvert to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. Victoria Calvert is smart, compassionate, hard-working, experienced, and extremely fair-minded. She has impeccable academic credentials and a broad range of experience in both civil and criminal law. Her personal qualities and background are absolutely ideal for the bench and provide assurance that she has both the temperament and desire to treat everyone who will appear before her with equal respect, dignity, and fairness.

Ms. Calvert's strong educational background provides her with an excellent foundation in the academic, reasoning, and writing ability needed to excel as a jurist. After graduating from Duke University in 2003 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Spanish, Victoria attended and graduated from New York University School of Law in 2006. While at NYU Law, Victoria served as a teaching assistant. This impressive academic history will serve Victoria well in the challenging matters and legal analysis needed to be successful as a federal judge.

Victoria's experience in both civil and criminal law has prepared her to handle the wide range of cases assigned to district court judges in our district. After graduating from law school, Victoria started representing clients facing investigations related

to violations of the False Claims Act, Food Drug and Cosmetic Act, and other federal laws at one of the most well-respected law firms in the country, King & Spalding. After six years at King & Spalding, Victoria was called to public service. Since 2012, she has served as a Staff Attorney at the Federal Defender Program, Inc. in Atlanta representing indigent defendants facing serious federal charges. In her almost ten years as a federal public defender, Victoria has always been zealous, extremely well-prepared, and unfailingly professional as an advocate. Between her work at King & Spalding and her work with the Federal Defender, Victoria's practice has brought her into contact with people from every walk of life. Victoria's practice as a federal defender has included complex pretrial motions, a significant amount of trial work, and a substantial number of appeals in the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, including oral arguments before the Court. Victoria has also filed petitions for certiorari in the United States Supreme Court on behalf of court-appointed clients.

Victoria Calvert's personal qualities are just as impressive as her professional credentials and experience. She is thoughtful, deliberate, and always compassionate. Although litigation can often inspire sharp dealings between litigants, Victoria always remains calm, thoughtful, and professional in her communications and dealings with others. She has an intellectual humility that drives her to delve into legal analysis to ensure that she has considered the nuances of every legal issue in her cases.

Finally, Victoria's roots in this community run deep. She spent the majority of her childhood years in Chamblee, Georgia, and has spent her entire professional career in the Atlanta Georgia area. GACDL notes that if confirmed, Victoria will be just the second African-American female to be appointed to the district court bench in a city and state widely regarded as the cradle of the civil rights movement. Victoria Calvert's addition to the district court bench of the Northern District of Georgia will be welcomed by the people of her community.

For all of the reasons above and more, the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers hopes to see Victoria Calvert as the next United States District Court Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Thank you for your service to our country. We urge your committee to set a prompt hearing so that Victoria Calvert's nomination can move forward.

Respectfully submitted,



Kimberly A. Dymecki  
President