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Research. Development. Justice. Reform.

Courtney Bryan. Director

April 20, 2021

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Judge Julien Neals to the District Court for the District of New Jersey

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

On behalf of the Center for Court Innovation, I write your office in support of the nomination of Julien Neals to the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey.

President Biden could not have picked a wiser, more deserving nominee than Julien Neals for the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey. Over more than a decade, County Counsel Neals has been an important partner to my organization, supporting the development of visionary initiatives that brought new resources and ideas to New Jersey's courts. His creativity, even-handedness and compassion have played an essential role in strengthening how municipalities and courts work and improving outcomes for everyone--victims, litigants and the community at large.

Through his untiring efforts, he helped the City of Newark create numerous innovative programs, including Newark Community Solutions, New Jersey's first community court. This project served as a model for other courts by leveraging existing community resources to expand sentencing options for judges, allowing them to offer defendants social services to address the underlying causes that might contribute to offending, and he has inspired similar innovative problem-solving in Bergen County.

Throughout his career, he has made equity, fairness and compassion top priorities. And through his leadership, he has been able to change hearts and minds, welcoming new ideas that have benefited both the governments in which he has worked and the communities that he has served.

Please let me know if you have questions. I can be reached at 718.496.9363 or bryanc@courtinnovation.org.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Bryan".

Courtney Bryan, Executive Director