



June 20, 2023

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The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Judicial Vacancies at Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Dear Majority Leader Schumer:

I write on behalf of the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia (WBA) to urge the Senate to vote on the pending nominations to fill the vacancies on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Founded in 1917, the WBA is one of the oldest and largest voluntary bar associations in Washington, DC. We represent approximately 850 members in the Washington, DC area and are well positioned to offer insight into the adverse consequences resulting from the pending vacancies on the D.C. Superior Court.

When fully staffed, the DC Superior Court has one chief judge and 61 associate judges. However, currently there are several vacancies, which significantly strain the Court's judicial resources. This chronic problem has resulted in case backlogs, increased workloads for overburdened judges, and delays in resolving civil and criminal cases. The current vacancies impair the Court's ability to deliver justice to many of our community's most vulnerable populations. For example, Family Court judges hear cases involving matters on the fundamental rights of parents to care for their children, abuse and neglect, adoption, child support, and mental health in the District. A full complement of judges is also vital for the adjudication of landlord-tenant, criminal, and domestic violence cases. It is crucial that such sensitive cases be addressed in a timely manner, yet the high number of vacancies prevents the Court from doing so.

For the reasons outlined here and many others, it is imperative that the vacancies on the DC Superior Court be filled to ensure equal access to justice for District of Columbia residents. We strongly urge the Senate to act immediately to address the pending nominations and fill the vacancies on the DC Superior Court.

On behalf of the WBA, I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kandis Gibson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kandis Gibson
President

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