September 21, 2022

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chair
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20510

Re: Letter in Support of Julie Rikelman for the U.S Court of Appeals for the First Circuit

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

On behalf of the National Women’s Law Center (the “Law Center”), I write to express strong support for the confirmation of Julie Rikelman for the U.S Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. The Law Center fights for gender justice – in the courts, in public policy, and in society – working across the issues that are central to the lives of women and girls. The Law Center uses the law in all its forms to change culture and drive solutions to the gender inequity that shapes society and to break down the barriers that harm women and girls – especially those who face multiple forms of discrimination, including women of color, LGBTQ people, and low-income women and families. For nearly 50 years, the Law Center has been on the leading edge of every major legal and policy victory for women.

Julie Rikelman is a distinguished attorney with a deep understanding of the impact of the laws and the Constitution on the rights of women, girls, and people of color, and is extremely qualified to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. Throughout her distinguished career, she has demonstrated a tireless commitment to equal justice for all, bodily autonomy, and safeguarding the Constitutional rights of all people. Ms. Rikelman has extensive experience across the legal field practicing in public interest and the private sector. She currently serves as the United States Litigation Director for the Center for Reproductive Rights, a role she’s held for the past decade. Previously, she worked as an Associate at Feldman & Orlansky, a Senior Associate at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, and as the Vice President of Litigation at NBC Universal, Inc. Ms. Rikelman also clerked at both the federal and state court levels, respectively, for Judge Morton Greenberg on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and Justice Dana Fabe, the first woman to serve on the Alaska Supreme Court.¹ Ms. Rikelman earned an A.B. from Harvard College, where she graduated magna cum laude and

received her J.D. from Harvard Law School where she graduated cum laude.\textsuperscript{2} Her commitment to public service is evidenced throughout her career and she has been honored with the National Law Journal's Pro Bono Award,\textsuperscript{3} and was named by Crain’s New York as one of the Notable Women in Law in 2021.\textsuperscript{4} Ms. Rikelman’s breadth of experience and commitment to equal justice for all will make her a tremendous asset to the federal bench.

Importantly, Ms. Rikelman also brings much needed professional and gender diversity to the First Circuit. Ms. Rikelman has spent over a decade of her legal career litigating reproductive rights, civil rights, and human rights cases—experience that is severely underrepresented on the federal bench.\textsuperscript{5} She is a well-regarded public interest appellate litigator with extensive experience appearing in federal courts,\textsuperscript{6} arguing twice before the United States Supreme Court to defend and protect the right to abortion and access to reproductive health care.\textsuperscript{7} In addition to the professional diversity Ms. Rikelman would bring to the federal bench, if confirmed, she would be the first immigrant woman and first Jewish woman to ever serve on the First Circuit.\textsuperscript{8} She would also be just the third woman to ever serve on the First Circuit.\textsuperscript{9} When our courts reflect the rich diversity of our country, judicial decision-making is improved and public trust in our courts is increased.\textsuperscript{10}

Julie Rikelman is a distinguished litigator and will make an exceptional addition to the federal appellate bench. The Law Center offers its support of the nomination of Ms. Rikelman to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit and urges the Senate to quickly approve her nomination. Please feel free to contact me, or Erinn D. Martin, Director of

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{enumerate}
\item Id.
\item Id.
\item See Maya Sen, Diversity, Qualifications, and Ideology: How Female and Minority Judges Have Changed, or Not Changed, Over Time, Wis. L. Rev. 367 (2017); Berry, Kate, Building a Diverse Bench: Selecting Federal Magistrate and Bankruptcy Judges, BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE AT NYU SCHOOL OF LAW AND AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION JUDICIAL DIVISION (2017).
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Nominations & Cross-Cutting Policies at erinnmartin@nwlc.org, should you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Fatima Goss Graves
President and CEO