

June 8, 2023

VIA EMAIL

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20003

Re: *Letter in Support of Ms. Tiffany Cartwright for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington*

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the National Women’s Law Center (the “Law Center”), I write to express support for the confirmation of Ms. Tiffany Cartwright to the U.S District Court for the Western District of Washington.¹ 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 over 50 years, the Law Center has been on the leading edge of every major legal and policy victory for women.

Tiffany Cartwright is an exceptional civil rights litigator with extensive experience at the trial and appellate level in state and federal courts.² Throughout her career, Ms. Cartwright has demonstrated a commitment to gender justice and equal justice for all. Since 2014, first as an associate and now as a partner, Ms. Cartwright has specialized in civil rights litigation at MacDonald Hoague & Bayless where she’s defended the rights of workers against harassment and discrimination and held police officers accountable for misconduct. Ms. Cartwright successfully represented a female corrections officer who was subjected to severe sexual harassment by a colleague,³ and secured a major settlement for a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives senior agent who experienced severe racial harassment and discrimination.⁴ Additionally, Ms. Cartwright successfully secured a record \$15 million dollar settlement in *Thomas v. Cannon*, a case concerning a police shooting of an unarmed Black man.⁵ Her breadth of experience as a civil rights litigator and commitment to ensuring equal justice will be a tremendous asset to the federal bench if she is confirmed.

¹ The White House, “President Biden Names Thirteen Round of Judicial Nominees,” January 19, 2022, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/01/19/president-biden-names-thirteenth-round-of-judicial-nominees/>.

² MacDonald, Hoague, & Bayless Civil Rights and Immigration Attorneys, “Tiffany M. Cartwright,” <https://www.mhb.com/who-we-are/tiffany-m-cartwright>.

³ *Murphy v. Wash. State Dep’t of Corr.*, 2020 Wash. Super. LEXIS 8350. *See also*, MacDonald, Hoague, & Bayless Civil Rights and Immigration Attorneys, “Washington Department of Corrections Pays \$282,500 to MHB Client for Sexual Harassment,” <https://www.mhb.com/news/washington-department-of-corrections-pays-282500-to-mhb-client-for-sexual-harassment>. Despite numerous complaints about the co-worker by female employees and his extensive history of harassing women and girls, the department of corrections failed to prevent or remedy the abuse. Prior to trial, the judge awarded the plaintiff a stipulated judgment of \$282,500.

⁴ Mike Carter, ATF pays \$450,000 to settle discrimination lawsuit involving a boss with a Nazi tattoo, THE SEATTLE TIMES (Nov. 19, 2019), <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/atf-pays-450000-to-settle-discrimination-lawsuit-involving-a-boss-with-a-nazi-tattoo/>.

⁵ *Thomas v. Cannon*, 289 F. Supp. 3d 1182 (W.D. Wash. 2018).

Ms. Cartwright's impressive background would add a vital perspective to and increase professional diversity on the federal bench as judges with experience litigating civil rights cases are vastly underrepresented.⁶ After graduating from Stanford University and Stanford Law, Ms. Cartwright clerked for Justice Dana Fabe of the Alaska Supreme Court and later for Judge Betty B. Fletcher of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. She went on to practice as an associate for Jenner and Block LLP. Since entering private practice as a civil rights litigator, Ms. Cartwright has been recognized by Super Lawyers as a "Rising Star" in Washington state for 2019, 2020, and 2021. Over the course of her career, she has gained the respect and admiration of the legal community for her expertise and commitment to civil rights.

During her hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Ms. Cartwright demonstrated an exemplary temperament and deep knowledge of the law befitting a federal judge. Throughout her hearing, Ms. Cartwright reaffirmed her commitment to civil rights and the importance of the rule of law. Ms. Cartwright's composure, clear and thorough responses to questions posed by Senate Judiciary Committee members, and extensive experience make her a well-qualified candidate for the Western District of Washington.

The Law Center offers its support of the nomination of Tiffany Cartwright to serve on the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington and urges the Senate to quickly confirm her nomination. Please feel free to contact me, or Erinn D. Martin, Director of Nominations & Cross-Cutting Policies, at erinmartin@nwlc.org, should you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Fatima Goss Graves
President and CEO

⁶ Clark Nelly, "Are a Disproportionate Number of Federal Judges Former Government Advocates?," *Cato Institute*, May 27, 2021, <https://www.cato.org/study/are-disproportionate-number-federal-judges-former-government-advocates>.