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Senator John Edwards
225 Dirksen
Washington, DC 20410

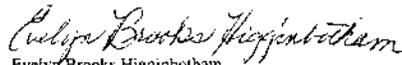
Dear Senator Edwards:

I am pleased to give my wholehearted endorsement of Allyson Duncan's nomination to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. I have known Allyson Duncan for many decades. In the mid-1970s we both lived in Rochester, New York—Allyson in her first job after law school and I in a Ph.D program in History at the University of Rochester. In the late 1970s and early 1980s job opportunities brought each of us to Washington, D.C., which was home for me and a second home for Allyson since Washington is the home of Allyson's mother's sister. Allyson's aunt was both my high school history teacher and my mother's good friend. I give this personal detail to emphasize our friendship and family ties over the years. I have followed Allyson's career and am knowledgeable of her accomplishments as a law student, law clerk, teacher, lawyer in a variety of capacities, utility commissioner, and most recently president of the North Carolina Bar.

I speak with full confidence of her integrity and ability. She is a person of principle and compassion. I have never known anyone more committed to high personal standards. She believes in and exhibits thoroughness, unselfishness, sharp intellect, vision, and kindness to others. She is wide-ranging in and passionate about her interests—from the law to Duke basketball to dogs. My late husband Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr., a staunch Democrat, had the greatest respect and affection for Allyson, a staunch Republican. It is a testimony to both of them that they got along so well. He tremendously admired her mind and her tenacity, often praising her legal skills and overall intellectual abilities.

It is a great joy for me to know of Allyson's hearing before the Judiciary Committee, and I do not doubt that the Committee's good judgment will result in her appointment.

Sincerely,



Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham
Professor of History and African American Studies