

Dear Guilford County Democratic Party Executive Committee Member:

We are writing to fully endorse and support Gabriel Kussin for the Democratic Party Nomination for the Open District Court Judge's Seat vacated by the Honorable District Court Judge K. Michelle Fletcher. While we know and have worked with Gabriel in a variety of different ways, we can all confidently say that Gabriel not only possesses all the tools and skills to be a strong Democratic candidate on the 2026 ballot, but that Gabriel would make a phenomenal judge for all of the people of Guilford County.

In his over ten years of service as an Assistant Public Defender, we've viewed him through a variety of different lenses: sometimes he's been our colleague in defense of clients in court; other times, we've been the presiding judge in court hearing and considering his arguments; and some of us have even been opposing counsel or his opponent! We all agree that Gabriel comes to court exceptionally prepared, treats everyone in the courtroom with the dignity and respect they deserve, and faithfully protects his clients' rights to be heard *and* to be seen. Gabriel's reputation and the positive results he's achieved for his clients are proof of his commitment, professionalism, and passion.

We believe that Gabriel's nomination, appointment, and election to the District Court Bench would uphold public confidence in the judiciary at a time when the rule of law is under direct assault. This moment requires a new and bold voice, that will not only be fair and impartial to everyone that appears in front of him but will also courageously safeguard the rights of *every* individual. We believe Gabriel can be that voice.

Through his work as a teacher, community organizer, afterschool program coordinator, civil legal assistant, and now as a Public Defender, Gabriel has a proven track record of helping the people of North Carolina. His commitment to public service is deeply rooted in his Puerto Rican heritage and Jewish faith, which inspires Gabriel to make the world a better place, particularly for those without a voice or power. Gabriel would work tirelessly as a judge to continue that work.

Finally, we all believe that Gabriel is 100% prepared for the campaign if nominated by the Democratic Party. We all watched Gabriel run for District Court Judge in 2024 and were impressed by his organizing skills, commitment to Democratic ideals, and ability to connect to voters across Guilford County. Most importantly, Gabriel ran his campaign with positivity and respect, which only improved his already outstanding reputation in our community. We know that Gabriel kept active and engaged for exactly this moment. The skills he learned, the connections he made, and all the experiences he had during the 2024 campaign will make him a formidable candidate and a fantastic representative of the Democratic Party. I strongly urge you to vote for Gabriel Kussin in the upcoming Guilford County Democratic Party Executive Committee Special Election for District Court Judge on February 5<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Christopher Brook, Judge, North Carolina Court of Appeals (Fmr.)

The Honorable Marcus A. Shields, Judge, District Court, Guilford County (Ret.)

The Honorable Jennifer Rierson, Chief Public Defender, Guilford County

The Honorable John Nieman, Chief Public Defender, Guilford County (Ret.)

Kathleen Lockwood, Esq., Victim Services Expert

Munashe Magarira, Esq.