

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4606

August 31, 2017

Doris Elcenial Henderson Causey, President
Virginia State Bar
1111 East Main Street, Suite 700
Richmond, VA 23219-0026

Dear Ms. Henderson Causey:

We write to inform the Virginia State Bar (VSB) of our plans to address the upcoming judicial vacancy in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

As you know, Judge Gerald Bruce Lee will retire from the bench in September 2017. We intend to recommend strong candidates for the President's consideration to fill this vacancy, and hope to make these recommendations later this fall.

In the past, the VSB has played an important role in judicial nominations, and we hope you will help us assure that Judge Lee's successor on the District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia continues his exemplary public service.

We would appreciate any recommendations the Virginia State Bar may have regarding qualified candidates and would appreciate if the VSB could solicit expressions of interest, interview candidates, undertake appropriate research, and make recommendations to our offices no later than October 15, 2017. We likewise ask the VSB to facilitate other statewide bar associations in making their own recommendations.

In addition, we ask that the VSB assist in disseminating information to serve as notice that we are accepting applications from candidates interested in pursuing this nomination. Relevant information, including a link to download and complete a mandatory questionnaire, can be found on Senator Warner's website at <https://www.warner.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=eastern-district-judicial-vacancy>. The deadline to submit materials is Friday, September 29. Finally, we would appreciate the VSB's help in asking other statewide bar associations to distribute this information to their memberships.

Coupled with the independent review we plan to undertake, we look forward to working with you to maintain the quality, integrity, and diversity of the Eastern District bench. Thank you for your assistance with this important process.

Sincerely,



MARK R. WARNER
United States Senator



TIM KAINE
United States Senator