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VIA ELECTRONIC COPY ONLY

Members of the Milwaukee Common Council
c/o City Clerk Jim Owczarski
City Hall
200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

To the Honorable Members of the Milwaukee Common Council:

Makda Fessahaye has asked me to write a letter in support of her nomination to serve as the City of Milwaukee's Director of Employee Relations. This I am very glad to do.

To begin, let me acknowledge there to be a great deal of information and experience relevant to such an appointment, beyond my own work as dean of Marquette University Law School. While I have served in this position for going-on eighteen years—well more than spanning the time period from Makda's admission to law school to her graduation—I acknowledge that I am not an expert on such a complex position as the one at hand. At the same time, what I can say, with confidence, is that Makda will approach these most important duties with an energy and a commitment to all parts of our community that I believe to be quite unusual and most admirable.

We could see this from the beginning of Makda's time at Marquette Law School, as a student, almost a decade ago. Whether it was as a legal volunteer for the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic as early as her first semester of law school, as the pro bono coordinator of the refugee help desk of the Pan-African Community Association her second year, or the truly extraordinary number of other ways that she connected with *and served* members of the Milwaukee community even while a student, Makda embraced and even expanded the ways that those in our law school could "do good," in the well-known words of my predecessor as dean, the late Howard B. Eisenberg.

Makda's reach has only expanded since her graduation and admission to the bar. She has remained connected with us at Marquette University Law School, to be sure, but her service has expanded to include the entire state, both in her "day job" and in her other affiliations and service. For Makda to be able to return home to Milwaukee and train her considerable energies and talents on directing the city's employee relations seems to me a most welcome development for our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph D. Kearney".

Joseph D. Kearney
Dean and Professor of Law