

April 4, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Reid, Chairman Grassley, and Ranking Member Leahy:

We had the privilege and pleasure of serving as law clerks to Chief Judge Merrick B. Garland of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Although our lives and careers have taken us in many different directions—from private law firms to corporate counsel positions, from prosecutors’ offices to indigent defense providers—we are united in our deep admiration of Chief Judge Garland and our support for his swift confirmation to the United States Supreme Court.

In nominating him, President Obama described Chief Judge Garland’s “decency, modesty, integrity, even-handedness, and excellence.” As his former law clerks—the people who worked most closely with him for the past eighteen years—we witnessed those qualities in chambers every day.

Throughout his career, Chief Judge Garland has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the Constitution and the rule of law. As a prosecutor, that meant serving as an advocate for justice and for victims of terrible crimes, while also respecting the rights of criminal

defendants. As a judge, it has meant relentlessly seeking the right answer to legal questions. In neither role did he ever seek, or settle for, a politically expedient solution or a result that conformed to any predetermined political view. On more than one occasion, he reminded us that the role of judges is to apply the law to the facts before them. For Chief Judge Garland, that statement has never been a sound bite; it is a credo that has guided him across eighteen years on the federal bench.

Chief Judge Garland's years on the bench have also been characterized by an unrelenting work ethic. He treated every matter before him with the same care and attention to detail, whether it affected the national interest or a single ordinary life. By the time of oral argument, Chief Judge Garland had mastered the relevant case law. He typically knew the record better than the clerk who was assigned to help him on the case, and often times better than the advocates themselves. When it came time for him to draft an opinion, he labored over every word, making sure that the finished product was just, faithful to the law, and clearly written—always thinking of the courts and litigants who would rely on it in the future.

Chief Judge Garland also taught us the value of diversity, in all its forms. We observed how Chief Judge Garland forged meaningful connections with others from a wide array of backgrounds and ideological perspectives—from the law clerks he hires to the personal and professional relationships he maintains. He finds camaraderie with his fellow judges without regard to who nominated them to the bench. Chief Judge Garland deeply believes that our system of justice works best when those who see things differently are able to work together, in a collegial manner, to arrive at a just result. And when he must disagree with his colleagues, he always does so respectfully.

There are not many bosses who so uniformly inspire the loyalty that we all feel toward Chief Judge Garland. Our enthusiasm is both a testament to his character and a reflection of his commitment to mentoring and encouraging us long after we left his chambers. He has stood by our side during the happiest moments of our lives—quite literally, having officiated the weddings of seven of his former clerks. He has welcomed us and our growing families into his home. He is a constant source of career advice and guidance. And he has offered love and support in the dark times, too, when we have suffered setbacks, losses, and uncertainty.

We, in turn, have always looked to Chief Judge Garland as a role model. He instilled in all of us an abiding appreciation for the importance of public service and volunteerism. It was not lost on us that, as a younger lawyer, he gave up a lucrative law firm partnership to serve as a line prosecutor. We saw firsthand how, no matter how busy his docket was, he took the time to tutor elementary students in Northeast Washington. And we listened as he urged us to seek out concrete ways of giving back to our own communities throughout our careers. Following Chief Judge Garland's lead, in the years since our clerkships we have collectively gone on to work in a wide variety of public service positions, offered legal services *pro bono* to those in need, and devoted our careers to educating the next generation of lawyers.

Chief Judge Garland led by example in other important ways as well. More than anything else, Chief Judge Garland sees himself as a husband and a father. His great love and partnership with his wife, Lynn, and his dedication to and pride in his two daughters, Becky and

Jessie, know no bounds. We noticed how, despite the heavy burdens of his professional obligations, Chief Judge Garland always made time for his family, whether it involved summer vacations to America's national parks, reading the Harry Potter series to his daughters in its entirety, or personally scouring the neighborhood when a beloved pet rabbit escaped its hutch.

Having worked by his side, we also know how much Chief Judge Garland loves his country. Those of us who clerked for him at the time will always remember the morning of September 11, 2001. From his chambers, we watched with horror the news about the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. In the days after, we remember the explicit importance Chief Judge Garland placed on coming to the office every day and continuing to prepare for upcoming cases. In the aftermath of that terrible tragedy, he believed it was more important than ever for the American people to see that their system of government was functioning without interruption—that the rule of law endured.

Never one to put personal advantage over public duty, Chief Judge Garland has exemplified throughout his career a commitment to the highest ideals of our system of justice. We have every confidence that, when confirmed, Chief Judge Garland will serve his country ably and honorably as an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Respectfully Submitted,

Priya Aiyar, 2001-02

Jessica Ring Amunson, 2005-06

Samantha Bateman, 2011-12

Jeffrey Bellin, 1999-2000

Eric Berger, 2003-04

Ishan Bhabha, 2009-10

Sophia M. Brill, 2011-12

Jessica Bulman-Pozen, 2007-08

Martine Cicconi, 2010-11

David M. Cooper, 2004-05

Justin Driver, 2005-06

Karen Dunn, 2006-07

Kristen Eichensehr, 2008-09

Benjamin Eidelson, 2014-15

Heather Elliott, 2000-01

Nora Freeman Engstrom, 2003-04

Sam Erman, 2009-10

Matthew X. Etchemendy, 2012-13

Tali Farhadian Weinstein, 2003-04

Brian Fletcher, 2006-07

Chad Golder, 2005-06

Danielle C. Gray, 2003-04

Craig Green, 2000-01

Alex L. Groden, 2014-15

David Gunter, 2001-02

Kathleen R. Hartnett, 2000-01

Kate Heinzelman, 2009-10

Rachel Heron, 2012-13

Serena Hoy, 2000-01

Clare Huntington, 1997-98

Ben Keith, 2002-03

Joshua A. Klein, 2002-03

Jonathan Kravis, 2004-05

Albert Lin, 1997-98

Janine M. Lopez, 2014-15

Daniel E. Matro, 2010-11

Robin M. Meriweather, 1998-99

Anton Metlitsky, 2006-07

Jay Michaelson, 1998-99

Michael J. Mongan, 2006-07

Erin Murphy, 1999-2000

Lindsey Powell, 2007-08

David Pozen, 2008-09

Elizabeth B. Prelogar, 2008-09

J.J. Prescott, 2002-03

Michael J. Pyle, 2005-06

Mitchell Pearsall Reich, 2012-13

Christopher S. Rhee, 1998-99

Charles W. Scarborough, 1997-98

Zachary C. Schauf, 2011-12

Paul Schlaud, 1999-2000

Thomas P. Schmidt, 2011-12

Miriam Seifter, 2007-08

Joshua M. Segal, 2004-05

Colleen E. Roh Sinzdak, 2010-11

Sonja Starr, 2002-03

Benjamin Taibleson, 2010-11

Elisabeth S. Theodore, 2009-10

Benjamin H. Torrance, 2001-02

Kendall Turner, 2013-14

Meaghan VerGow, 2004-05

Dana R. Wagner, 1999-2000

Joshua Waldman, 1998-99

Alexandra M. Walsh, 2001-02

Previn Warren, 2012-13

Elizabeth Wilkins, 2013-14

Damian Williams, 2007-08

David M. Zions, 2008-09