

June 5, 2012

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Letter of Support for Lorna G. Schofield (S.D.N.Y.)

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

On behalf of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association ("NAPABA"), we proudly endorse and urge the prompt confirmation of Lorna G. Schofield for the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. Ms. Schofield has the experience, intellectual capacity, integrity, and temperament to be an excellent United States District Court judge. Notably, if nominated and confirmed, Ms. Schofield would become the first Filipino American in the history of the United States to serve as a federal Article III judge.

NAPABA is a national bar association representing the interests of Asian Pacific American attorneys, judges, law professors, and law students. Now in its 24th year, NAPABA represents the interests of over 60 affiliate organizations and over 40,000 Asian Pacific American attorneys. NAPABA is deeply committed to supporting the appointment of qualified Asian Pacific Americans to the federal bench, where Asian Pacific Americans are woefully underrepresented.

Notably, if confirmed, Ms. Schofield would be the only Asian Pacific American federal judge in the Southern District of New York. Given that Asian Pacific Americans represent approximately ten percent of the population served by the Southern District, the lack of any Asian Pacific American representation among its over 50 jurists is shocking.

Ms. Schofield possesses the qualities and experiences necessary to be an excellent federal district court judge. For almost 20 years, Ms. Schofield has been a litigation partner at the New York-based, international law firm of Debevoise & Plimpton LLP. During that time, she has participated in a number of high profile matters. In addition, she has been appointed to conduct several internal investigations on behalf of large multinational companies who had concerns

about financial irregularities.

Prior to joining Debevoise Plimpton, Ms. Schofield served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York for 4 years. During that time, she was principally assigned to the Criminal Division. In total, Ms. Schofield has tried 10 cases to verdict or judgment, and conducted two arbitrations to decisions.

Ms. Schofield has been very active in the American Bar Association (ABA). She was recently the Chair of the Litigation Section of the ABA, which is the ABA's largest section, with over 60,000 members. She was the first Asian Pacific American to be elected Chair of that section, and one of the very few Asian Pacific Americans to lead any of the sections of the ABA. Among her many ABA appointments and leadership roles, Ms. Schofield was a member of the ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary, serving as the Second Circuit representative. This committee is responsible for the ranking of all federal judicial nominees and submission of that ranking to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Based on her role with this committee and her other professional experiences, Ms. Schofield clearly understands the qualities necessary to be a good federal judge.

Ms. Schofield also continues to be active in community activities. Since 2006, she has served as a director for a nonprofit foundation dedicated to funding projects for children in need, especially from low-income urban neighborhoods. She also has been a member of several choral groups, and has helped to raise money for a public library.

Ms. Schofield is a second-generation Filipino American who understands hard work and sacrifices. She was an only child raised by her mother when her father left the family when Ms. Schofield was 3 years old. Growing up in a blue collar community that featured little diversity, Ms. Schofield was like many kids in such situations; she understood that she was "different" and learned to accept that she would be treated differently without complaint or resentment. She received a full tuition scholarship as an undergraduate at Indiana University, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa and *magna cum laude* in three years – notwithstanding the fact that her mother died while she was in school. As a result of her mother's influence and her childhood experiences, Ms. Schofield has developed a strong interest in mentoring, especially of women of color. Such mentorship is not imposed on her by her law firm, but rather is based on her own personal interest in ensuring that all individuals are able to attain opportunities commensurate with their skills and talent.

Based on her qualifications, intellect, integrity, and commitment to justice, NAPABA enthusiastically supports Lorna G. Schofield to serve as a District Judge for the United States District Court for Southern District of New York. NAPABA urges that the Senate confirm her promptly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tina R. Matsuoka', with a stylized, flowing script.

Tina R. Matsuoka
Executive Director