

JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.
5TH DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

www.house.gov/spratt

1401 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-5501

COMMITTEES:
CHAIRMAN, BUDGET
ARMED SERVICES

**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515**

DISTRICT OFFICES:

TOM GETTYS BUILDING
BOX 350
ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA 29731
(803) 327-1114

707 BULTMAN DRIVE
SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA 29150
(803) 773-3362

88 PUBLIC SQUARE
DARLINGTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29532
(843) 393-3998

April 14, 2010

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

Re: Nomination of Richard Mark Gergel to the
United States District Court for the District of South Carolina

Dear Chairman Leahy:

Along with Congressman Clyburn and Senator Graham, I recommended Richard Mark Gergel for appointment as a federal judge. I now write in support of the President's nomination of Richard Gergel as a United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina. Mr. Gergel is one of our state's most experienced and respected litigators. He has handled with distinction and success some of the most complex matters tried in recent years in our state and federal courts. His practice has been diverse, representing both plaintiffs and defendants, employees and employers, and persons suing the government and government officials defending against lawsuits. Mr. Gergel is widely respected in the South Carolina Bar for his diligence, fairness and strong work ethic, as reflected in his American Bar Association rating as "unanimously well qualified" to be a United States District Judge.

Mr. Gergel also enjoys great respect for his intellect and scholarship. He is a *summa cum laude* graduate of Duke University, was an Angier Biddle Duke Scholar to Oxford University and earned his Juris Doctor at Duke University School of Law, where he was a member of the Editorial Board of the Duke Law Journal. He, along with his wife, Dr. Belinda Gergel, have written extensively on the history of South Carolina, including a widely respected book on the history of the Jews of Columbia, South Carolina. They have also done notable work on our state's early African American Bar. Mr. Gergel has also served as founding president of the South Carolina Supreme Court Historical Society and past president of the South Carolina Jewish Historical Society.

Richard M. Gergel is eminently qualified, and I urge your Committee to act swiftly and favorably on his nomination as a United States District Court Judge.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John M. Spratt, Jr." in a cursive style.

John M. Spratt, Jr.
Member of Congress

JMSj/tm