

July 27, 2009

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

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

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
361-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
335 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

***Re: Open Letter in Support of the Nomination of Judge Beverly Baldwin Martin to
the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit***

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

We are former law clerks for Judge Beverly Baldwin Martin, and for the reasons
highlighted below, we write to offer our wholehearted support for her nomination to the United
States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

Judge Martin has been actively engaged with the law for more than 25 years. She has
demonstrated her intellect and flexibility as both an attorney trying cases and jurist resolving
disputes. Through her varied roles in private practice and public service, which include serving
as Assistant Attorney General for the State of Georgia, Assistant United States Attorney and,
subsequently, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia, and United States
District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, Judge Martin has gained invaluable insight
into the law and our legal system which specially qualifies her to be a federal appellate judge.

In her years of practice, and especially on the federal bench, Judge Martin has always
remained faithful to the law. She is not motivated by politics or personal agenda. She never
approaches a case with a preconceived outcome. She does not believe herself above precedent.
Instead, she regards her role in the legal system with humility borne of her love of this country
and the blessings and privileges we enjoy as a result of the integrity of our courts and the rule of

law. She employs her sharp mind to assimilate existing law and apply it to the facts of individual cases as they come before her. Of her law clerks, she asks questions about the law and expects informed answers. She appreciates that her decisions affect lives and businesses, and she strives to “get it right” based on precedent.

In the courtroom, Judge Martin is patient, fair, and firm. She engages litigants with an open mind to be sure that she fully understands their positions. She treats all parties before her with courtesy and respect. The individual *pro se* litigant receives the same time, thought, and effort as a large corporate party. She is an impartial arbiter who understands her role in resolving disputes based on the law.

Judge Martin is also distinctly dedicated to her role as a public servant. The depth of this commitment is difficult to understand until you have worked in Judge Martin’s chambers. She works into the evenings and on weekends. She stays on top of her docket to ensure parties’ disputes are resolved in a timely manner. She bends her schedule to accommodate litigants, attorneys, and others who appear before her. After a full day on the bench, she continues on the job to prepare for the days ahead. There can be no doubt that she will bring this same level of commitment to the Eleventh Circuit.

On a more personal level, Judge Martin is an individual of the highest integrity who seeks to influence those around her to be likewise. As only one example, in her daily interactions with her law clerks, she works to ensure that her clerks, as future practicing attorneys, understand the importance of honesty, collegiality, and hard work. She solicits her clerks’ views and respects their opinions. She asks them to see all sides of a dispute. When the issues are complex, she challenges herself and those around her to learn more about the facts and the law. She leads by example.

Judge Martin also shares joy in the successes of others. She cares deeply about those who work with and for her. She serves as a mentor and community leader. She takes our calls, listens to our concerns, remembers our families, and gives us sound advice.

In sum, having seen the inner workings of Judge Martin’s chambers, we believe she is eminently qualified to serve on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. She will bring to that position the intellect, integrity, compassion, and dignity it deserves.

Respectfully submitted,

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/s/ Rebekah B. Kcehowski 

Rebekah B. Kcehowski

Law Clerk for Judge Martin, 2002-2003

/s/ Rita Bolt Barker

Rita Bolt Barker

Law Clerk for Judge Martin, 2004-2005

/s/ Guinevere Christmann

Guinevere Christmann

Law Clerk for Judge Martin, 2002-2004

/s/ Walt Davis

Walt Davis

Law Clerk for Judge Martin, 2000-2001

/s/ Josh Dickman

Josh Dickman

Law Clerk for Judge Martin, 2004-2005

/s/ Susan Friedman

Susan Friedman

Law Clerk for Judge Martin, 2005-2006

/s/ Christine Harrington

Christine Harrington

Law Clerk for Judge Martin, 2003-2004

/s/ Christopher J. Kellner

Christopher J. Kellner

Law Clerk for Judge Martin, 2000-2001

/s/ Melissa Mortazavi

Melissa Mortazavi

Law Clerk for Judge Martin, 2006-2007

/s/ George Pence

George Pence

Law Clerk for Judge Martin, 2005-2006

/s/ Bonnie Puckett

Bonnie Puckett

Law Clerk for Judge Martin, 2007-2008

/s/ Alex Sponseller

Alex Sponseller

Law Clerk for Judge Martin, 2000-2002

/s/ Miranda H. Turner

Miranda H. Turner

Law Clerk for Judge Martin, 2007-2008

/s/ James Tysse

James Tysse

Law Clerk for Judge Martin, 2006-2007

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cc: Senator Benjamin L. Cardin
Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr.
Senator Saxby Chambliss
Senator Tom Coburn
Senator John Cornyn
Senator Richard J. Durbin
Senator Russell D. Feingold
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Al Franken
Senator Lindsey Graham
Senator Charles E. Grassley
Senator Orrin G. Hatch
Senator Johnny Isakson
Senator Edward E. Kaufman
Senator Amy Klobuchar
Senator Herb Kohl
Senator Jon Kyl
Senator Charles E. Schumer
Senator Arlen Specter
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse