

PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY

School of Law

June 24, 2011

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

Senator Patrick J. Leahy, Chairman
Senator Chuck Grassley, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6225

Re: Stephen Six—Nominee for the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit

Dear Senators Leahy and Grassley:

Your committee has before it the nomination of Stephen Six of Kansas to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. The position that he would fill is the one I was privileged to hold for 25 years since I was appointed by President Ronald Reagan. I recently retired from the court to assume the responsibilities of Dean at the Pepperdine University School of Law. I have been so gratified and encouraged that President Obama nominated such a highly qualified and thoughtful lawyer to replace me. Stephen Six was my law clerk many years ago and went on to distinguish himself as a practicing lawyer, state district judge, and Attorney General of Kansas. I can say, with confidence, that Stephen Six possesses the demeanor, intellect, and integrity that characterize the finest judges in the nation. He is open and independent in his judgment. He demonstrates the highest standards and professionalism in everything that he does.

Stephen Six was called to become Attorney General of Kansas at a challenging time for our state. He took to his position a profound dedication to public service and to follow closely the law and the facts of each case—a necessary combination for a good judge. Although he inevitably had to make some difficult decisions, they were motivated by his best judgment of what was good for the state at the time. As a judge, he would no longer be required to factor in the policy calls that are required in the executive branch. Instead, I know from working closely with him in my chambers that he would remain fully committed to limiting his role to interpreting the legal precedent faithfully and constraining himself to the proper role of the judiciary.

Stephen Six is uniquely qualified from his training and his experience to be a judge of great distinction. His confirmation would be a credit to the work of your committee. I support and urge his speedy confirmation.

Respectfully submitted,



Deanell Reece Tacha
Duane and Kelly Roberts Dean and Professor of Law
Pepperdine University School of Law

Cc: Senator Pat Roberts
Senator Jerry Moran