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March 20, 2014

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The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Senator
437 Russell Senate Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Mark Cohen, Esq.
Nominee U.S. District Court
Northern District of Georgia

Dear Senator Leahy, *Pat*

I am writing in support of the nomination of Mark Cohen to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

I have known Mark personally for many years and am familiar with his professional work. Mark is a person of good character and exceptional legal ability who is highly qualified to serve in the judicial position for which he has been nominated.

I understand from press accounts that some persons object to his appointment because he represented the State of Georgia as special counsel in defending in court Georgia's Photo ID Voter Law because those persons believe that the photo ID law discriminates against African Americans.

I think it is outrageous to object to a lawyer's qualification for judicial office because of his representation of a client. That practice could have devastating effects on our judicial system if lawyers are judged by the client or issues they represent. You recently saw the dangers of that type of thinking in your committee with the rejection of a nominee for Assistant Attorney-General for Civil Rights in part because of the hostility towards a client he represented regardless of his qualifications for that office.

That problem is highlighted in the case of Mark's appointment because he undertook the representation of Georgia in this voter ID case at the request of Georgia's African American Attorney-General. I know that Mark, a life-long Democrat, is totally without any racial, ethnic, gender or other prejudices. To deny this appointment by President Obama

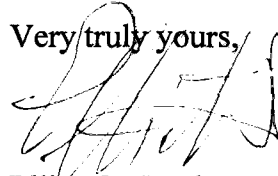
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because some people disapprove of his client's issue is a travesty and an outrage that is not only unfair to Mark – a good man and lawyer – but is a threat to our legal system.

I urge you to proceed to confirm Mark Cohen without further delay.

With my best personal wishes for your continued success, I am,

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "E. Levitas", written over the typed name.

Elliott H. Levitas

EHL:bp