



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

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THE HONORABLE DAN G. BLAIR
PRESIDENT AND CEO

April 22, 2013

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

Dear Senator Leahy:

I am writing to urge you and the Committee on the Judiciary to favorably report the nomination of Elaine D. Kaplan to the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. Ms. Kaplan is an outstanding and dedicated public servant and I give her my highest recommendation to serve on that court.

I have had the distinct pleasure of knowing Ms. Kaplan in a professional capacity since 1998 when she was nominated, and later confirmed, as Special Counsel with the Office of Special Counsel. I served as Senior Counsel to the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs at that time and was charged with shepherding her nomination through the Committee and the Senate. Her nomination was not contested and the Senate voted unanimously to confirm her.

Ms. Kaplan served admirably in that position and worked hard to strengthen the operations of that office. She was responsive to Congress and conducted her affairs, and those of her office, in accordance with the law. Her term of office as Special Counsel extended into the first two years of the George W. Bush Administration and she worked collaboratively with me while I served as Deputy Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management. For example, OPM and OSC worked together on drafting and promulgating regulations implementing the *No Fear Act of 2002*. Further, she directed OSC in establishing a certification program for agencies regarding educating employees on whistleblower rights, and she worked closely with OPM leadership in gaining OSC certification.

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Ms. Kaplan has continued her public service over the past five years as General Counsel at OPM. She has proven to conduct her duties in an accessible and open manner. If confirmed, Ms. Kaplan would approach her office with fairness and impartiality.

I urge the Committee to take timely action in moving favorably forward on her confirmation and recommend her without reservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan G. Blair". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Dan G. Blair

cc: Senator Charles Grassley
Committee on the Judiciary