

July 6, 2011

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

The Honorable Charles Grassley, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee:

We write in our personal capacities in support of the nomination of our law school classmate, Jesse M. Furman, to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

We were Jesse's classmates at Yale Law School, and in that time, we observed him both in and outside of the classroom. Regardless of the setting, we were struck not merely by Jesse's outstanding mind but by the strength of his character, work ethic, and personality. In a community of many highly intelligent and able individuals, Jesse stood out. He not only had a keen grasp of the law, but he was able to apply a common sense understanding to its implications. Equally importantly, Jesse was (and remains) a pleasure to discuss any issue with, both due to his intellect and his open-mindedness. In any academic institution, one learns not merely from the teachers but also from classmates, and we all learned from Jesse.

None of us has been surprised by the professional successes Jesse has achieved since graduating from law school. He has consistently served in positions where he has worked to further the public interest, including as a law clerk—on the United States Supreme Court, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and the Court to which he has been nominated—and as a public servant in the Department of Justice, both as an Assistant United States Attorney and as Counselor to Attorney General Mukasey. The career path that Jesse has taken and the positions he has held underscore that his loyalty is not to any party but to the public at large.

Regardless of our political affiliations or legal philosophies, we recognize the outstanding abilities and attributes that Jesse would bring to the bench and have no doubt that Jesse would make an outstanding jurist. His temperament and intellect would ensure a fidelity to the law that is essential in any judge. We respectfully urge his confirmation.

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