

May 11, 2018

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Roy K. Altman as District Judge, United States District Court for
the Southern District of Florida

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein,

It is a pleasure to write this letter in support of Roy Altman's nomination to serve as a judge on the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

Roy and I were colleagues at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Miami, where we worked together on numerous cases. In June 2016, I left the office to take up my current position as Solicitor General of Florida. We have kept in touch since then, and I was pleased to learn that he has been nominated to serve as a district court judge. In my view, Roy would make an outstanding jurist, and I recommend him wholeheartedly and without any reservation.

Roy is one of the most talented lawyers I have had the privilege of working with, and he is easily the most gifted trial attorney I have ever seen in action. That is not just my view; over the years, countless others have expressed the same opinion to me, inside and outside the U.S. Attorney's Office. Roy's courtroom presentations are works of art—carefully crafted, flawlessly delivered, brilliantly argued, and reflecting complete mastery of the record and relevant law. While serving as an AUSA, I had many opportunities to attend formal training sessions; many were valuable, but none was as edifying or inspiring as watching Roy as he delivered a closing argument or cross-examined a witness.

Roy's phenomenal success as an attorney is not just attributable to his extraordinary intellect; just as importantly, he is one of the hardest workers I have ever met. For example, he routinely makes presentations—including lengthy closing arguments and appellate arguments—without any notes, having committed all the relevant facts and law to memory. His written work product reflects equally painstaking labor. As an attorney serving in the appellate division, I frequently had the chance to work on appeals for cases that Roy had litigated in the district court. Invariably, I would find that Roy's pleadings to the district court identified and thoroughly ventilated the full range of authorities and questions germane to any issue, no matter how

complicated. In fact, Roy's trial court pleadings were often more carefully researched and comprehensively argued than appellate pleadings that had been prepared by other attorneys working on the very same matter under much less severe time constraints.

As his work ethic reflects, Roy is overflowing with energy. His enthusiasm for the law is infectious, and he has a gift for infusing all that he does, big or small, with joy, which helps to inspire those around him to do their best. Roy also has a remarkable talent for communicating with people of widely varying backgrounds and perspectives. I have seen him engage a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit on complicated and difficult questions of law, and I have also seen him making his case to a jury made up of ordinary citizens; Roy is the rare attorney who is equally comfortable, and equally effective, in either setting. That reflects not only the range of his talents, but also his character: Roy likes and respects people, and he fairly exudes an almost palpable warmth and decency. Not surprisingly, his goodwill and respect are reciprocated.

Roy's integrity is beyond reproach. He is extraordinarily conscientious and maintains the highest ethical standards. As an AUSA, I often turned to Roy for advice. He was generous with his time, and I quickly learned to trust his judgment.

Finally, Roy understands that the role of a judge is to say what the law is, not to say what the law should be. Based on our interactions, I have no doubt that he would honorably and dispassionately discharge that solemn duty.

In short, Roy would make an excellent addition to the bench, and I could not be more enthusiastic in support of his nomination. Thank you very much for taking the time to consider these thoughts. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like any additional information. (Although I am writing this letter in a personal capacity, the best way to reach me is at the work address and phone number listed below.)

Sincerely,



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