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April 2, 2014

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Offices In
Maryland
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The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley,

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Leon Rodriguez as Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services at the Department of Homeland Security. Without question, Mr. Rodriguez has the character, legal knowledge, demeanor and perspective that will enable him to provide serve with excellence in this new position.

I have known Leon Rodriguez for 13 years, since he joined our law firm, Ober, Kaler, Grimes and Shriver. He and I worked very closely over the six years he was at Ober|Kaler, from 2001 to 2007. We worked on a wide variety of cases in support of clients of our firm's Health Law Group. I not only got to know him well on a professional basis, but on a personal level as well, including getting to know his family.

I had the opportunity to observe the manner in which Leon achieved superior results for clients, as well as the manner in which he interacted with clients, government and colleagues. Leon brought to his representation of our private sector clients, both for-profit and not-for-profit, both his knowledge and perspective from his years of government experience as well as his ability to understand and appreciate what it

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means to provide business services and achieve goals in a regulated setting. I have been in situations in which thorny issues needed to be tackled and resolved and information gathered and communicated, whether to or from client staff to senior executives. Leon has a special ability to make complex matters easily understood. In our multiple cases together, Leon listened, counseled, and advocated always in an effective, respectful, and thoughtful way that earned him the trust of our clients, opponents, regulators and everyone at our firm.

Since Leon left Ober|Kaler, I have had the opportunity to see how he has conducted himself as head of the Office of Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services with direct responsibility for key issues relating to civil rights and protections including those relating to health care information privacy and security. I am active in the community of health lawyers nationally and can share that, without question, Leon is viewed as an effective, capable leader in this important area.

Without reservation of any kind, I urge ratification of Leon's appointment to this new position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howard L. Sollins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Howard L. Sollins