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July 14, 2017

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein;

I am writing to support the nomination and confirmation of Claria Horn Boom as a United States District Court Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Kentucky.

Prior to my retirement, I was a senior partner of the law firm King & Spalding, a member of its Management Committee, and the Managing Partner of its London Office. During the years 1995 to 1998, I worked closely with Ms. Boom following her judicial clerkship when she was an associate attorney in the Litigation Department of our Atlanta Office. Following her return to Kentucky in 1998, I have remained in touch with her and followed her career closely.

Without question, Ms. Boom has excelled at every step of her professional career through hard work and merit, beginning with her performance in law school, followed by her clerkship on the Sixth Circuit, her success in private practice, and her service as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Offices of both the Eastern and Western Districts of Kentucky. In my 33 years at King & Spalding in its Atlanta, Washington, and London Offices, I worked with scores of associates in multiple geographical offices and departments and can affirm that she ranked among the top not only for her analytical skills and writing ability but also for her judgment, work ethic, and common sense. Partners sought to have her assigned to their cases wherever possible. We regretted but understood her decision in 1998 to return to her home state Kentucky and begin public service as an AUSA.

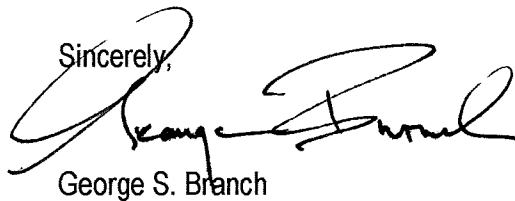
Ms. Boom comes from a hard-working family in Eastern Kentucky that prides itself on succeeding on its own well-earned merits. Her mother was for thirty years the Circuit Clerk in Martin County in Eastern Kentucky where Ms. Boom grew up and attended high school before winning a scholarship to Transylvania University where she graduated *summa cum laude*. Following law school at Vanderbilt (where she attained Order of the Coif status), she received a judicial clerkship for a highly respected Sixth Circuit judge, the Hon. Pierce Lively, before beginning her law practice at King & Spalding. I can vouch for her reputation for integrity and professionalism in Lexington, Kentucky, where I now live, both within the broad community in general and the legal community in particular. Without repeating the achievements noted on her CV, her personal, academic, and professional history reflects a breadth of experience, training, and commitment to the community that makes her well-suited to serve

as a U.S. District Court Judge.

Finally, my experience over the years arguing cases before judges in state and federal courts around the country also convinces me that Ms. Boom has other personal attributes that would make her an excellent federal district judge. Apart from her intellect, she is fair, straightforward, and thoughtful of others – even in the heat of litigation– without compromising the force of her advocacy. She understands people and reads situations well, which would serve her well on the bench. For all these reasons, her appointment would be applauded in Kentucky and would uphold the stature and respect the federal judiciary warrants.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to report favorably on her nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George S. Branch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and a long, sweeping underline.

George S. Branch