

Arliss Sturgulewski

July 7, 2011

Senator Patrick J. Leahy
437 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
Fax: 202-224-9516

Re: Justice Morgan Christen's July 13, 2011 Confirmation Hearing

Dear Senator Leahy:

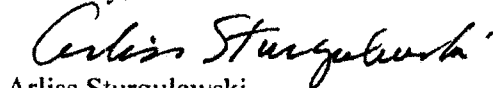
I am writing to you in your capacity as a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Alaska Supreme Court Justice Morgan Christen has been nominated for a position on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. She is scheduled to come before the Senate Judiciary Committee for hearing on July 13, 2011. I write to strongly endorse Justice Christen and ask that you give her your favorable consideration.

I have been an active volunteer and elected official since coming to Alaska in the early 50's. I was elected to the State Senate in 1978 and served 14 years as a Republican Senator from a midtown seat. In 1986 I ran as the first Alaskan woman to receive my party's nomination for Governor. I ran again in 1990 as the Republican Party's nominee. In addition, I have served as Chair of the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education and advisor to the International Northern Pacific Fisheries Commission. I also served on the National Task Force on Aquaculture sponsored by the Pew Trust and Woods Hole Science Center. After retiring from the Alaska State Senate in 1992, I became active in University of Alaska issues, most particularly as advisor to the Chancellor (three in fact), as advisor to the Institute of Social and Economic Research, and as a member of the University of Alaska Foundation, as well as serving on many other boards and commissions.

It has been my privilege to know Morgan Christen since 1994. Some 15 of us, all Alaskans, belong to an informal group that every year takes a trip together around Alaska, to see this wonderful place in which we live. We've met and made friends who live in rural Alaska and all over this diverse and fascinating land. Over the years, I've come to know Morgan well. I am well aware of the great respect she enjoys from people from across the political spectrum. She has distinguished herself as a trial court judge and now as a member of the Alaska Supreme Court. Throughout her judicial career, she has received broad support from private sector leaders, law enforcement, the Alaska Native community and leaders in both major political parties. Morgan also has a long history of distinguished community service. She is a public servant in the best tradition.

Justice Christen would be a stellar addition to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. She is highly regarded for her intelligence, her understanding and application of the law and her capacity to apply justice. She would bring integrity, self-discipline and professional competence to the bench. Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,



Arliss Sturgulewski
Former Alaska State Senator