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July 11, 2011

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
437 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

As you weigh the qualifications of candidates forwarded by President Barack Obama to fill a vacancy on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, I want to offer my unqualified recommendation of Alaska Supreme Court Justice Morgan Christen.

Justice Christen is an accomplished Alaskan known for being fair and ethical. She has received broad support from the Alaska Native community, private sector leaders, law enforcement, the Alaska Bar, and leaders in both major political parties in every application and review process. Like all judicial candidates in Alaska, Justice Christen was subject to anonymous surveys conducted by the bi-partisan Alaska Judicial Council; she received the highest score of all candidates for the Alaska Supreme Court in each of the five categories surveyed, including professional competence, integrity, fairness, judicial temperament, and suitability of experience.

In addition to her unimpeachable professional attributes, Justice Christen has made it a point to travel all over Alaska. She knows its people, its history, and its diverse cultures. Further, she is engaged in her community and lives a life dedicated to public service. Among the awards she has received for her community service are the Chamber of Commerce Athena Award, Philanthropy Day Philanthropist of the Year, the YWCA Woman of Achievement Award, and the Light of Hope Award for her work on behalf of Alaska's children.

For the past six years I have had the pleasure of watching her work as a valued member of the Board of Directors of Rasmuson Foundation, a private family foundation dedicated to promoting a better life for Alaskans. I am proud to recommend her as one of the most extraordinary and talented women I have ever encountered.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Diane Kaplan
President