

March 15, 2017

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

Each of us has had the pleasure and privilege of having Judge Neil M. Gorsuch as a law professor at the University of Colorado Law School, where Judge Gorsuch serves as the Thomson Visiting Professor. We, his current and former students, hold varied political views, hail from different parts of the country (and even the world), and have followed different career paths. We all strongly support Judge Gorsuch's nomination to be the next Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court and enthusiastically recommend his confirmation by the Senate.

We are confident endorsing Judge Gorsuch because we know him to be a genuinely kind and brilliant person, dedicated to the rule of law and the Constitution. He is not beholden to politics. His love for the law is a core belief, instilled in his many students over the years through word and deed.

Judge Gorsuch was an excellent and innovative professor who always made us feel like valuable participants in the learning process. He encouraged student involvement in the classroom and consistently fostered truly collaborative classroom discussion. He required us to take handwritten notes to minimize other distractions and so encourage us to engage actively and openly with our peers. One of the undersigned former students recalls that Judge Gorsuch "always made sure to take the additional time to be inclusive and thus incorporate a wide variety of views into classroom discussion. Whatever his own personal politics or beliefs, Judge Gorsuch listened to, and included, every student."

As a teacher, Judge Gorsuch had a unique ability to convey information in a clear and engaging manner, a quality that will serve him well as a Justice. For many of us, Judge Gorsuch made legal ethics — a compulsory course for every law student — one of our favorite classes. Judge Gorsuch possesses the enviable ability to convey the solemnity of the subject at hand, while still injecting appropriate levity. Stated in the straightforward language Judge Gorsuch appreciates, he took the traditionally dry and boring subject of legal ethics — one all about rules

and “thou shalt” and “thou shalt not” — and made it fun. We all came away with a deep appreciation for a subject that is crucial to every lawyer’s practice.

His lessons extended beyond the classroom and into his chambers for the many students Judge Gorsuch taught as externs. One of the undersigned former student externs remembers the following story:

While serving as an extern, I helped him in drafting an opinion rejecting a prisoner’s appeal. The prisoner had no lawyer and very weak arguments, so I turned in a draft that explained very briskly why the prisoner’s claim lacked merit. The Judge then asked me: “Where are the responses to the prisoner’s arguments?” I told him I didn’t see the need to address those because they were so weak. That didn’t go over well. Judge Gorsuch said: “We owe this man the kindness of stating his arguments as fairly as we can and then responding with clear answers in plain English. We owe him the kindness of explaining to him, in a way that he can understand, why he lost. Ruling against this man doesn’t relieve us of our obligation to show him that kindness.”

There are a great many law professors, even phenomenal ones, who might know half of their students’ names after the completion of a law school course. Judge Gorsuch knew us all and invested significant time and energy to developing genuine and caring relationships with us. And his commitment to us as students and future lawyers did not end after he graded our final exams. For many of us, Judge Gorsuch has become a lifelong mentor, meeting with us after class ended, and after graduation, to discuss our careers and our lives. For a few of us, he even administered the oath to practice law.

One of us summed up our feelings exceedingly well. “Judge Gorsuch was an outstanding professor at the University of Colorado Law School: he was brilliant, engaging, thoughtful, considerate, and invested in his students’ success. Particularly so on that last point — despite his busy schedule and full-time job at the Tenth Circuit, he always made time for us when we needed it. Judge Gorsuch plainly has the qualifications, legal acumen, and writing talent to serve on the Court. But even more so, he has demonstrated that he has the character and temperament to make a great Justice.”

We, his students, hope the Senate will agree and quickly confirm Judge Gorsuch as the next Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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