

November 17, 2017

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Grassley and Feinstein,

We write to urge the Judiciary Committee to take up and support the nomination of David R. Stras to be a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. We come from divergent political philosophies and backgrounds. We both worked closely with Mr. Stras when he was in private legal practice, representing a variety of clients. Based on that experience, we unreservedly recommend Mr. Stras to the Committee.

Mr. Stras has a brilliant legal mind. He learns both facts and legal precedents quickly and is able to apply legal principles to new situations. His reasoning and communication skills enable him to debate all sides of an issue, to search out the unintended consequences of legal theories, and to find the appropriate resolution to each matter. He is among the most able of lawyers.

Mr. Stras' approach to the law is fair, unbiased, and accepting of diverse points of view. In the time we worked with Mr. Stras we saw him engage with a wide variety of women and men from various walks of life. Mr. Stras showed an understanding for and sympathy with people and the problems they face. He is a kind and caring person. We need more judges like that.

In sum, we believe that Mr. Stras will be an excellent federal appellate judge. We urge the Committee and the Senate to confirm him.

Sincerely,



Richard D. Bernstein



Jay T. Jorgensen