

October 13, 2017

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman, Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6050

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Minority Member, Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6050

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

We write in support of the nomination of Gregory Katsas to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. All of us are retired judges of the State of Florida and all of us have either sat on appeals Greg argued or worked with him as private lawyers upon our retirement from the bench. We represent a diversity of views, but all agree that Greg is highly qualified to serve on the D.C. Circuit.

Greg is the very model of what the President and the Senate ought to look for in a judge. He possesses both a first-rate intellect and a first-rate temperament. He has a mind that would place him comfortably alongside the most distinguished jurists and a work ethic that would be hard to exceed. But even more salient than those qualities is his judgment. He approaches a legal problem with great energy but also an appropriate measure of dispassion and with respect for those on the other side. He reasons calmly and with impeccable logic informed by many years' experience in both the public and private sectors. He always takes an adversary's position at its strongest. His character, of course, is beyond reproach and he is a kind and generous colleague.

Although he has never lived in Florida, Greg sat for the Florida bar exam at a relatively advanced stage of his career (in 2011, some 22 years after graduating from law school) and has since distinguished himself as one of the lights of the appellate bar. As a "Florida lawyer," he has argued with great skill in the Florida Supreme Court, four of the five district courts of appeal, and the Eleventh Circuit. Many of his cases involved controversial and difficult issues, but Greg has acquitted himself with exceptional aplomb. In short, he is a credit to the Bar of Florida and someone we all count ourselves fortunate to have encountered in the practice of law.

We believe he will be an excellent addition to the D.C. Circuit and urge his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Chris W. Altenbernd
Raoul G. Cantero
Gerald B. Cope Jr.
Angel A. Cortinas
James E. Joanos
Simone Marstiller
Frank. A Shepherd
Peter D. Webster