

Supreme Court

STATE OF ARIZONA

FROM THE CHAMBERS OF
REBECCA WHITE BERCH
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October 18, 2018

Sen. Chuck Grassley, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary

Re: Bridget Bade, Ninth Circuit Nominee

Dear Senator Grassley and Members of the Committee on the Judiciary:

I write in support of Bridget Bade, a nominee for a position on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. I have known Bridget since 1987, when she began law school. I was her professor for, I believe, at least 11 credits of law-school study. During that time, I got to know her well, and have followed her career since.

In law school, Bridget was a poised, articulate, and professional young woman. She came to my attention by her preparedness and insightful questions in class. Based on those interactions and references from other faculty members, I selected her to be a writing instructor, not only because of her excellent writing skills, but because of her ability to work with other students and to provide helpful, constructive criticisms of other students' work.

By the time she'd graduated (cum laude) in 1990, she had garnered many awards and accolades: She had been a writing instructor and an articles editor on the law review. She also received a Sandra Day O'Connor constitutional law award, a law journal scholarship, and a best brief award, and she'd had her case note published and had coauthored a work on the post-sale duty to warn.

Bridget earned these honors because she worked hard – and because she was just so nice. Her work history since law school has demonstrated that these traits, coupled with excellent analytical skills and a first-class mind, can lead to success. She clerked for Judge Edith Jones on the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, then followed that by selection to the US Attorney's Honor Program. She began working at the US DOJ in the Civil Division, doing environmental torts work. She worked at two law firms for nearly ten years (1995-2006). Then, from 2006-2012, she worked for the US Attorney's office for the District of Arizona. In 2012, she was appointed to the court.

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What's the secret to her success? She got great grades. She worked hard. She was thoughtful and diligent. And she was nice to everyone.

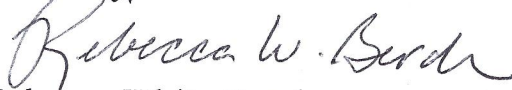
She volunteered, serving on committee after committee. She started serving on student government in undergrad, and has volunteered for committees at every other level of her career. Notable examples include Rules Advisory Committees, two Magistrate Judge committees, and the Ninth Circuit's Courts and the Community Committee. She also served as the District of Arizona's lawyer-representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference.

Through it all, she's remained human. She has a lovely family – husband Tom and children Matthew (who is a student at Barrett Honors College) and Madeline, a 10th grader. She has animals and does regular things – like exercising and taking care of her family. And she does it all without caffeine.

In short, Bridget is a smart, accomplished, poised, and professional lawyer and judge. She works hard, is thorough, and writes well. And she has integrity. She will be guided by the law. In her, you have an outstanding candidate for judge on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Good luck with the vetting process. If I can be of further assistance, please call me.

Sincerely,


Rebecca White Berch