

March 13, 2018

United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of The Honorable Amy J. St. Eve to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

Dear Chairman Grassley, Ranking Member Feinstein, and Committee Members:

It is our privilege and honor to submit this letter enthusiastically supporting the nomination of Judge Amy J. St. Eve to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. We each proudly signed a separate letter of support attesting to the many qualities that make Judge St. Eve an unmatched candidate for this position, including her extraordinary intellect and legal acumen, her commitment to the rule of law, and the tireless work she has done as a district court judge in the Northern District of Illinois. We, her current and former female law clerks, now write to share with you one final, and truly exceptional, dimension to our beloved Judge: her commitment to mentoring, supporting, and empowering women in the law.

As a quick glance at her CV reveals, Judge St. Eve's accomplishments on the bench are far from her only contribution to women's advancement in the legal workplace. Never one to rest on her laurels, Judge St. Eve works in many capacities – and engages other leaders to do the same – to help women in the law succeed. For brevity's sake, we will highlight only a few of these notable examples.

For nearly a decade, Judge St. Eve has traveled across the country to speak to jurists, lawyers and law students on the role of women in the legal profession. Within the Northern District of Illinois, she created a biennial Symposium on Women Lawyers in the Courtroom where hundreds of lawyers from across the profession gather to discuss and promote strategies to empower women lawyers as lead counsel and trial counsel in litigation. Due to the popularity of these symposia, and the critical importance of the issue they are addressing, other districts across the country have followed suit and begun to sponsor their own. In her courtroom, Judge St. Eve implemented an initiative to strongly encourage substantive speaking opportunities for less experienced attorneys, offering her time and forum to more recently minted attorneys to present oral argument on motions that may have otherwise been ruled upon based on papers alone. This initiative has directly enhanced the courtroom experience for many young legal professionals and, in particular, has provided professional development opportunities for female litigators.

Formally and informally, within her chambers and beyond, Judge St. Eve has mentored female attorneys who have gone on to be state and federal judges, federal prosecutors, subject matter experts, law professors, law firm partners, and general counsels, carrying her guidance and impact across the legal profession. We would be remiss if we failed to note that all this work has been extracurricular; she has undertaken it while simultaneously managing a busy docket of criminal and civil matters, and being an incredible and engaged mother, wife, and community

member. In March 2015, the Women's Bar Association of Illinois honored her with the Mary Heftel Hooton Award, in recognition of her career-long dedication to the advancement of women in the law. Judge St. Eve accepted the award, but her humble and gracious nature has never been driven by recognition: she does this work because she genuinely cares about promoting opportunities for women in the legal profession. And we, as just a small fraction of the women lawyers who have benefitted from this work, are enormously grateful for her pursuits.

For each of us, Judge St. Eve is a trusted advisor, a proud champion, and a fierce advocate. She leads not only by example; rather, she inspires and supports us in all of our diverse endeavors and takes a vested interest in helping us become the best versions of our professional and personal selves. We could not imagine a better role model, a better colleague, or a better addition to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. We wholeheartedly endorse her nomination.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. Donoghue
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