

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE
Governor



DEC 22 2008

STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 40002 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0002 • (360) 753-6780 • www.governor.wa.gov

December 12, 2008

The Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senator
1000 Chapel View Boulevard, Suite 290
Cranston, RI 02920

Dear Senator Reed:

I am delighted to support John J. McConnell, Jr.'s candidacy for appointment to the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island.

Jack's strong ethical character and commitment to service form the foundation of his jurisprudence. For the past 25 years, he has represented the ill and underprivileged, fighting to ensure that justice is administered fairly for all people. Jack's impressive array of awards and honors speaks not only to his expertise, but also to his community engagement. Complementing his role as lawyer, Jack's work as an advocate, mediator, teacher, and philanthropist, informs his practice and perspective and would provide a well-rounded base to draw from as judge.

I had the privilege of working with Jack when I was the lead Attorney General negotiating the \$246 billion Master Settlement Agreement with the tobacco industry. I know we both consider this accomplishment to be among the most satisfying of our careers, particularly in the elimination of logos and cartoon characters, like Joe Camel, that appeal to youth. That unprecedented and historic agreement could not have been accomplished in my opinion without the legal skills, hard work and commitment to justice that Jack brought to the negotiating team.

Jack's integrity, temperament, breadth of experience, passion for public service, and deep regard for the rule of law make him a perfect fit for the bench, and I have every confidence that he would be a valuable addition to the U.S. District Court. Thank you for your attention to Jack's application; I highly encourage your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Christine O. Gregoire in black ink.
Christine O. Gregoire
Governor

cc: U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse





State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE GRACE DIAZ District 11

January 13, 2009

JAN 16 2009

Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator
170 Westminister Street
Suite 1100
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Senator Whitehouse,

I am writing to urge you to consider John J. (Jack) McConnell for the vacancy on the United States District Court in Rhode Island.

Jack has all of the qualities that great judges have shared throughout history. He is compassionate. He understands how to solve complex problems. He has a relentless intellect. And his intelligence is only matched by the passion in his heart for the law and for justice. Throughout his career, Jack has demonstrated these qualities: whether representing injured asbestos workers, developmentally disabled adults or childhood victims of lead poisoning.

As you well know, people who live in my district often do not have the same level of access to justice as others because of barriers such as race, class and gender. It is my firm belief that Jack's presence on the Court would go a long way to reducing these barriers if he was appointed to the bench. In addition, I believe that Jack's compassion would be equally matched by his stern and commanding voice against young people who choose gangs, guns or violence. If there was ever a Judge who could get through to our young people, it would be Jack.

Thank you in advance for considering my recommendation of Jack McConnell to the U.S. District Court and please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to talk further at (401) 575-3641 or rep-diaz@rilin.state.ri.us.

Sincerely,

Grace Diaz
RI State Representative
District 11- Providence



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE DEBORAH RUGGIERO, *District 74*

January 20, 2009

JAN 27 2009

The Honorable U.S. Senator Jack Reed
1000 Chapel View Boulevard, Suite 290
Cranston, RI 02920

Dear Senator Reed,

This a letter of support for an accomplished and humble attorney,
John J. McConnell, Jr.

I have known 'Jack' for 9 years and in the next few minutes you'll
come to understand why I believe he will be an outstanding Judge on
the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island.

Jack McConnell exemplifies the qualifications for a federal district court
judge. He is thoughtful, judicious, and deliberate. Jack's appreciation
for diversity will assure fair and equitable decisions to all people, from
all walks of life.

Jack McConnell has extensive expertise as a trial attorney representing
diverse clients in both state and federal courts. He is a hard worker
who has dedicated his career to defending the working people, the
disabled, and those marginalized in our society.

What strikes me most about Jack McConnell is that despite his great
wealth and success, he has never forgotten his modest roots. There is
something compelling about his humility and commitment to serve and
help others.

Jack McConnell lives the words that Martin Luther King, jr said: "An
injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. Whatever affects
one directly affects us all indirectly."

My personal experience of Jack is not as a lawyer, but as a community
leader and philanthropist. Jack's values are profound and ever present
in his ongoing work. From the first day I met him, Jack has inspired
me to serve my community and our great state.



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE DEBORAH RUGGIERO, *District 74*

-2-

Jack's tireless work and boundless energy touches many. He is a steward for the arts serving as chair of the Board of Trustees for Trinity Repertory Company; he teaches future young lawyers at Roger Williams Law School; and he volunteers his time and treasures on many charitable boards including Crossroads and the Children's Environmental Health Center at the Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York.

He is a reflective and deep thinker and would serve well on the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island.

Thank you for considering Jack McConnell as a federal district Judge. He is a great American. We are blessed to have him in Rhode Island, and would be fortunate should you choose to appoint him as a Judge.

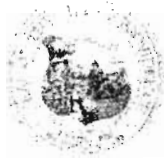
I am honored to recommend John J. McConnell, Jr. enthusiastically and unconditionally.

Respectfully,

Deborah Ruggiero
State Representative
District 74
Jamestown/Middletown

cc: Senator Sheldon Whitehouse

COUNCILMAN
CLIFFORD J. WOOD
299 DOYLE AVENUE
PROVIDENCE, RI 02906
Office: (401) 521-7477



APR 03 2009

City of Providence, Rhode Island

COMMITTEES

Ordinances
Vice-Chairman

Finance

Claims and Pending Suits

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Special Commission on
Public Education
Chairman

Police Advisory Board

April 1, 2009

The Honorable Jack Reed
1000 Chapel View Boulevard, Suite 290
Cranston, RI 02920

Dear Senator,

It has come to my attention that you are considering Jack McConnell for an appointment to the open federal district court judgeship in Rhode Island. Please allow me to add humbly my support and encouragement for this appointment.

I was fortunate to work with Mr. McConnell during my tenure with the Cicilline Administration on matters of public policy, and have continued to do so since my swearing-in as a member of the Providence City Council. Jack is an intelligent, hard-working, fair and compassionate volunteer public servant, and the people of our state would benefit from his contributions as a federal judge. If there is any way that I can be helpful to you in your decision-making process, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

Thank you most sincerely for your consideration.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cliff Wood".

Cliff Wood

Cc: The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
170 Westminster St., Suite 1100
Providence, RI 02903



January 25, 2009

The Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senate, District Office
1000 Chapel View Boulevard, Suite 290
Cranston, RI 02920

JAN 29 2009

Dear Senator Reed:

I am writing to you today to support the nomination of John J. McConnell, Jr., to the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island. It is with great enthusiasm I write on his behalf.

Mr. McConnell's twenty-five year legal career is recognized on a national level. His legal prowess combined with his compassion and understanding has earned him respect among a variety of constituencies. He is one of the most highly regarded members of our community. Providence and Rhode Island are fortunate to count Mr. McConnell among its residents.

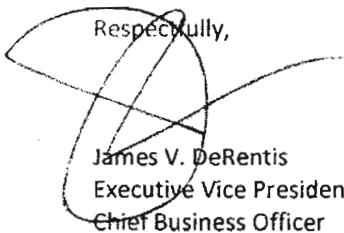
I have had the privilege of working with Mr. McConnell on a variety of initiatives over the past several years. As a member of the board of directors of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, we worked very closely with Mr. McConnell in his capacity as chair of the Providence Tourism Council, to align the economic development work of both the chamber and the city. The result is a broad based marketing effort one led by the chamber and the private sector and a second led by the city with the launch of the "Providence – The Creative Capitol" campaign. Mr. McConnell was the driving force behind this important economic development initiative that will position Providence on an international stage.

Mr. McConnell is actively engaged in the tourism business of the city, which in turn helps support the all important creative economy. A study released by American's for The Arts last June, revealed that the non-profit arts organizations in Providence contributed \$111 million of economic activity to the city in the form of sales revenue, wages and ancillary fees to local businesses, plus an additional \$5 million in local tax revenue. Mr. McConnell, as chair of the Trinity Repertory Company, the largest non-profit arts organization in the state, has led one of the major contributors to this important economic engine. His role in both tourism and the business of the arts, helped propel Providence to be listed as the only US City mentioned by the *Wall Street Journal*, as one of its top ten cultural destinations in the world.

In addition to his legal and business endeavors, Mr. McConnell devotes countless hours to his community in the form of volunteer work. Whether he is advocating for the homeless, children's healthcare, public justice or public radio, Mr. McConnell makes an impact. He is a source of inspiration to many, a counselor to all who seek his help and a true example of what it means to give back to a community.

In my humble opinion, Mr. McConnell would prove a valuable addition to the United States District Court. He would bring to the judiciary a balanced, thoughtful and compassionate approach to its work. The experience he has gained through a successful legal career, community champion, business leader and devoted family man will make for a committed, fair and honest jurist. I am honored to ask for your support on his behalf.

Respectfully,



James V. DeRentis
Executive Vice President &
Chief Business Officer

Cc: Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse

Correspondence Address: P.O. Box 9488, Providence, Rhode Island 02909-1488

Corporate Address: One Turks Head Place, Providence, Rhode Island 02903, Main Number: 401.546.5000 Fax: 401.546.5060

David G. Whalen
President
Chief Executive Officer

January 22, 2009

JAN 23 2009

The Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senate
1000 Chapel View Boulevard, Suite 290
Cranston, RI 02920

Dear Senator Reed:

I understand that you are considering nominating Jack McConnell to a position on the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island. I am writing to you to convey my full and enthusiastic support for that nomination.

I have known Jack for nearly ten years. During that time I have admired his work as an attorney, community volunteer and, of course, husband and father. From my perspective, he has been an exemplary citizen of Rhode Island and one whom I believe has the potential to become an outstanding judge.

As CEO of A.T. Cross (NASDAQ: ATX), I believe that one of the major challenges that a business encounters when trying to grow is how to interpret laws regarding, competition, intellectual property and human resources. These areas are constantly evolving and becoming more complex. Therefore, when navigating these issues the two things that business needs from the courts are consistency and clarity. With them, we can move forward with confidence and grow. When we receive mixed signals from the judicial system, too much time is spent discussing what the courts meant as opposed to how to move forward. In all of my dealings with Jack, he has demonstrated a consistent approach to issues, one that is framed by his keen mind and guided by his sense of fairness. Additionally, he is an excellent communicator who presents his point of view in a clear, compelling manner.

Jack's extensive history as an attorney has been marked by his efforts to provide a voice for those who he believes have been injured. Many of these people would not have had a voice otherwise. While in some cases corporations have been on the other side of Jack's efforts, that fact, from a business perspective, does not concern me. It seems that Jack's driving motivations were to get a fair judgment for his clients and set the wheels in motion for the offending entity to improve the way that it was doing business. In my experience, when a business improves its approach, over time it becomes a better, more profitable company. Therefore, it can be argued that the long term impact of Jack's efforts have been good for his clients and good for the system as a whole.

The Honorable Jack Reed

January 22, 2009

Page 2

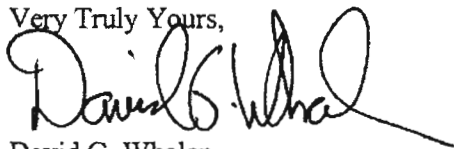
Beyond his career, it has been a pleasure to watch Jack direct his boundless energy toward community service. Mead's quote, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world..." seems to embody Jack's approach to life. When something in Providence needs to get done, Jack is there to lend his guidance and support. I am sure that he has provided you a list of organizations with which he has been involved. Whenever, I encounter someone from one of those entities they invariably praise Jack and the impact he has had on the group. The response to Jack is really quite impressive.

Finally, Jack and his wife Sara have a wonderful, loving, family. My daughter is a good friend of their daughter Maggie. I have watched Maggie grow from a child to a poised, young lady. It is clear that Jack and Sara have instilled in her a strong character and an enduring set of positive values including; confidence, respect, humility, tolerance, preparedness and service to others. In my eyes, all of these values, which are clearly present in the McConnell household, would serve any judge very well.

Senator Reed, I strongly encourage you to nominate Jack McConnell to a position on the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island. I am highly confident that he would serve the District and the United States with honor and excellence.

Thank you for considering this recommendation.

Very Truly Yours,



David G. Whalen

DGW:tcp

✓ cc: Senator Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate
170 Westminister Street, Suite 1100
Providence, RI 02903

JAN 29 2009

January 26, 2009

Honorable Jack Reed
100 Chapel Hill Blvd.
Suite 290
Cranston, RI 02920

Dear Senator Reed:

It is my understanding that Jack McConnell is being considered for an appointment to an open federal district court judgeship in Rhode Island.

I have had the pleasure of working with Jack, specifically in the not for profit sector, for the last 4 years. As Chairman of Trinity Reps Board, for the last 3 years, Jack has taken a true leadership role by bringing in a new Artistic Director and at the same time bringing together a very large and diverse board with the single mission of growing Trinity within our community.

At Crossroads Rhode Island, Jack has taken on a true leadership role in helping that organization tackle the issue of homelessness, which continues to challenge our city, our state and our community at large.

In all of my dealings with Jack he has shown the utmost respect and admiration for those he works with, those he serves and the entire RI community as a whole.

Rhode Island would be very well served by having Jack McConnell serve in the Federal District Court.

Sincerely,

Adam Hamblett
Vice President/General Manager

Cc: Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse

AH/ljd



RJP Murphy

Second Floor

West Warwick, RI 02893

phone (401) 615-1900

fax (401) 615-1559



331 Farnum Pike
Smithfield, RI 02917
Ph: (401)232-3377
Fx: (401)232-3253

JAN 30 2009

January 28, 2009

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
170 Westminister St., Suite 1100
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Senator Whitehouse:

I write in support of Jack McConnell for consideration to the Federal bench.

Twelve years ago, we bought a manufacturing business, Precision Turned Components, in Smithfield, to compliment our businesses in Georgia and New Jersey. We soon moved our New Jersey operations to Rhode Island as well as our family. Today, our five girls, even those past college, live in Rhode Island. Our business employs 80 people and produces metal components for telecom, automotive, and agricultural sectors. As a family and as a manufacturer, we are committed to RI.

My wife Jacky Beshar and I have known Jack McConnell for seven years when our children became fast friends. My first impression of Jack, that he is the real thing, has only strengthened over time.

With last week's inauguration, which my family was able to attend thanks to your lottery, I was struck by our President's ability to connect with diverse people. Masterfully, he moves us with words and example to look past daily concerns toward our own role in stewardship.

In no small measure, Jack McConnell has these same abilities. Jack is smart as can be but that alone is never enough. He uses a mix of intellect, pragmatism, and persistence dealing with colleagues to get things done, often with sights on the needs of the larger community. Jack's track record is impressive but his focus has never been a brass ring for himself. Rather, his sense of public good drives him forward. He is invested in using our judicial system to help those at a disadvantage. As a business owner, I have tremendous respect for the balance and intensity that Jack has demonstrated in his work on economic development, public safety, and philanthropy for Rhode Islanders.

Our country is blessed to have people of Jack's heart and capability eager to be of service. I strongly recommend him for consideration and have written the same to Senator Reed.

Respectfully yours,

Scot A Jones
President/CEO



INSIGHT you
can TRUST

Sally E. Lapidès
President, CEO

140 Wickenden Street
Providence, RI 02903

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401.553.6333 fax
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The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate
170 Westminster Street Suite 1100
Providence, RI 02903

JAN 21 2009

January 14, 2009

Dear Senator Whitehouse,

I am writing this letter to strongly recommend that you consider nominating Jack McConnell to fill one of the vacancies on the Federal Bench. Having known Jack McConnell for over fifteen years, I can say without reservation that he would make an outstanding Federal judge. Jack possesses the very qualities that will make him a first rate appointment.

First of all, Jack is extremely knowledgeable about the law. Over his career as an attorney he has been involved in a wide range of legal cases from representing thousands of workers injured by asbestos to representing the mentally disabled in our state. His scholarship and research skills for example, were evident in his multi-year effort to win the nationally prominent Tobacco case.

In addition, Jack's lifetime commitment to public service is well established by his involvement over the years in numerous charities, nonprofit groups and civic affairs. I personally had the privilege of serving with him on the Board of Trinity Rep where is Chairman of the Board. While my tenure as a Trustee at Roger Williams University did not coincide with Jack's, he carries the same priorities that I had while I served on the Board. I have spent many years working with him on behalf of the Gordon School. In all these cases, and in his many other commitments to public service, Jack has demonstrated his modesty, thoughtfulness, intelligence, integrity and balanced approach to numerous issues and challenges.

Finally, Jack possesses the judicial temperament to become an outstanding judge. He is exceedingly fair and balanced, he investigates matters thoroughly before reaching a decision, and he communicates the rationale behind his decisions in a clear, judicious and persuasive manner.

For all the above reasons, and more, I would strongly recommend that you consider Jack McConnell for an appointment to the Federal Bench. I am confident that he will become an outstanding judge.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours.

Sally E. Lapidès

Sally E. Lapidès

BARRINGTON
CUMBERLAND
E. GREENWICH
NEWPORT
PROVIDENCE
RELOCATION
SOUTH COUNTY





Richard K. Corley
Licensed in Rhode Island

Katherine Godin
*Licensed in Rhode Island
and Massachusetts*

March 3, 2009

MAR 04 2009

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator
170 Westminster Street
Suite 1100
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Senator Whitehouse:

It is my privilege and honor to recommend John J. McConnell, Jr. to you for appointment to the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island. I have known Jack McConnell for approximately twenty years. As the past President of the Rhode Island Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and a former member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Criminal Lawyers, I would like to bring to your attention Jack's commitment, understanding and knowledge of the types of cases I handle on a daily basis. As clerk for Supreme Court Justice Donald Shea, Jack was involved in reviewing and analyzing a multitude of criminal cases. Many of the opinions on criminal issues, which were decided by Justice Shea during Jack's tenure as a clerk, were first drafted by Jack after reviewing the transcripts, briefs and conducting his own legal research concerning the criminal issues implicated in each of those cases.

As you are aware, my area of daily practice is criminal defense. Throughout the past two decades I have had numerous occasions to discuss my cases and the practice involving the Federal Court with Jack. There has been several occasions where I have called him for advice because of his vast knowledge of the law in general and, in particular, his ability to analyze and help strategize during my representation of individuals charged with serious felony offenses. It is my opinion that at this point in his career Jack knows more about criminal defense than either of the two judges, The Honorable Mary Lisi and The Honorable William Smith had when they were first appointed to serve as Federal District Court Judges. I say this knowing full well that Judge Lisi had been a member of the public defender staff. However, her representation was limited to juvenile defendants which are much different than handling a case involving felony charges in both the State and Federal Courts.

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
March 3, 2009
Page TWO

Many people are aware that Jack has been a tremendously successful civil trial attorney. However, he also is accomplished in the area of civil rights litigation. I consider civil rights litigation to be the first cousin to criminal defense practice.

I know there are several fine candidates for the vacancy in the Rhode Island Federal District Court. However, I know of no candidate that has the same type of demeanor, respect for the individual, and understanding the gravitas implicated when a citizen is accused of a crime as Jack McConnell. I know that he believes in the Constitution and the fundamental rights enjoyed by any citizen accused of a crime. I also know from his personal background that he has a practical understanding of the types of individual which find themselves before the Federal Court. Jack comes from a working class family. While he has been tremendously successful throughout his career, he has earned every dime through his hard work and dedication to the practice of law. He understands the plight of the working class citizens that often find themselves involved in disputes both civil and criminal in the Federal Court. I have no doubt that he would treat each party; the State Government, the accused, the plaintiff and the defendant with a dignity that is commensurate with the awesome responsibility of a Federal District Court Judge. Judicial temperament is a trait that cannot be taught. I am supremely confident that if Jack were to be nominated and appointed to the bench he would make each person that came before him understand that each litigant deserved to be respected and treated as an individual that is before the Court on the most important case in the world, their case.

Jack is active in the community and has spent much of his so-called "free time" working for various non-profit charities as well as contributing to these organizations which provide a much-needed service to the citizens of Rhode Island. His commitment to the position for which he aspires is made clear simply by his seeking the position. It is obvious that he would be in a position for decades to come able to earn much more money if he stayed in practice as a practicing attorney. He is willing to walk away from all of that due to his desire to do the right thing and serve our State and Country while foregoing what many would consider to be a higher lifestyle.

When it comes to the practice of law this economic sacrifice that he is willing to make is a simple statement that Jack McConnell gets "it". I know that he would be an asset to the system that I work in on a daily basis if he were to be appointed to the bench. I wholeheartedly support his application and hope that you consider my brief comments on his behalf.

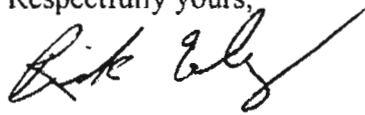
The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse

March 3, 2009

Page THREE

Best of luck in your decision and I hope that you are guided by the same wisdom that I have seen you act upon as a person that I am proud to call my Senator.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Corley", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Richard K. Corley, Esq.

RKC:pab

MANDELL, SCHWARTZ & BOISCLAIR, LTD.

Attorneys at Law

JAN 29 2009

Mark S. Mandell
Michael S. Schwartz
Yvette M. Boisclair
Heather M. Bonnett*

One Park Row
Providence, Rhode Island 02903
Telephone: (401) 273-8330
Fax: (401) 751-7830

*Also admitted in Massachusetts

January 28, 2009

Senator Jack Reed
1000 Chapel View Boulevard, Suite 290
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920

Dear Jack:

I am writing to you in support of Jack McConnell's application to be appointed to the Federal Bench. I have known and worked with Jack for over 25 years. I have immense respect for him as an attorney and as a person.

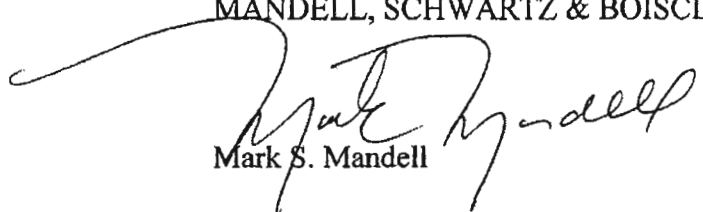
Jack actually began his legal career in my office. He worked with me for about three years before he left to join the firm Motley Rice LLC. I had the opportunity to observe Jack's work first hand. He is very bright and exceptionally dedicated. He worked long hours until he got his work done and done well. I developed an implicit trust in Jack due to his immense personal integrity.

I've also worked with and observed Jack over the years since we worked together. It is no surprise to me that he has been so successful. He is extremely talented.

It is also no surprise that he has volunteered so much time and has risen to leadership positions in social service organizations, such as the Trinity Repertory Company. Jack has a heart as big as his integrity and intellect. He is a true gift to Rhode Island and to all of us.

It is a great pleasure for me to have the chance to write to you on Jack's behalf. I deeply appreciate his friendship. I have learned much from him.

Very truly yours,
MANDELL, SCHWARTZ & BOISCLAIR, LTD


Mark S. Mandell

MSM/slh

bcc: Senator Sheldon Whitehouse

FEB 13 2009

February 12, 2009

Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senator
1000 Chapel View Boulevard, Suite 290
Cranston, R.I. 02920

Re: Recommendation for John J. McConnell Jr.
For District Judge

Dear Senator Reed,

I am writing to recommend Jack McConnell for the position of District Judge for the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island. By way of background, I have been a member of the Rhode Island Department of Attorney General for the past twenty-two years where I have served as a prosecutor in the Criminal Division, and for the last eleven years as a lawyer in the Civil Division more recently as an Assistant Attorney General. My work with the Civil Division has allowed me to litigate at all levels of the federal court system, including several high profile cases with one that is currently pending decision by the Supreme Court of the United States. More importantly, I have known Jack since the late 1990s, and have had a close working relationship with him in the high profile case of *State of Rhode Island v. Lead Industries Association*, the case with longest civil jury trial in the history of the Rhode Island Superior Court.

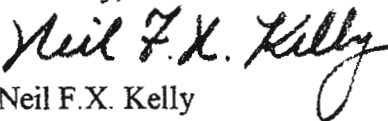
I have found that Jack possesses unique experiences that would make him an outstanding member of the federal judiciary as a District Judge. There are many excellent lawyers, but Jack has had a remarkably wide range of experience litigating exceedingly complex and protracted high profile cases, several on behalf of the public. He understands the intense scrutiny of litigating in such an environment and has the ability to communicate clearly. Jack also has a deeper understanding of the larger ramifications of such litigation. Managing such high profile cases often occurs in District Court, while handling other cases too. Jack has demonstrated the administrative capabilities to meet such challenges through his practice of law, work as a member of the Motley Rice firm, his community service, and additional interests beyond the law. Jack has the experience and ability to manage the type of caseload and the innumerable issues that arise to ensure justice is done.

A judge also needs a keen intellect and an ability to analyze the legal issues from all sides to reach the proper legal conclusion. Jack has a deep understanding of the law. He possesses the wisdom and an uncanny ability to untangle thorny legal issues to reach a solid solution while making the process seem simple. He understands the need to quickly reach a sound answer to the issues presented to keep litigation moving, and does so in an intellectually honest manner. Jack engages such issues with a positive enthusiasm, even in a highly charged atmosphere reaching solutions with clarity and ease. His innate qualities coupled with his vast experiences set him apart from others.

Jack also has good judgment and strong family values. He is a quality person who leads an exemplary life full of actions and deeds. These traits are reflected in his compassion and concern for all people, in particular those who are less fortunate and not just those around him. Jack understands that with the privileges that life presents comes significant responsibility. He lives these principles. I can confidently say, because of Jack's background and the kind of person he is, that if he were to be appointed to the bench that that he would ensure that every litigant would be given full and proper consideration while treating them all with fairness and dignity. Jack is a person of great character who has the ability to be an excellent judge.

Many fine candidates will undoubtedly be under consideration for this esteemed position. I believe, however, that Jack would bring his commitment to excellence to this position and would make an outstanding jurist on our District Court. I would ask that you give Jack serious consideration for this position. If you should have any questions or would like to discuss Jack's application further please let me know.

Sincerely,


Neil F.X. Kelly

Cc: Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse

RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC DEFENDER

160 Pine Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903

TELEPHONE: (401) 222-3492

FAX: (401) 222-3287

JAN 13 2009

January 12, 2009

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator
170 Westminster Street
Suite 1100
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

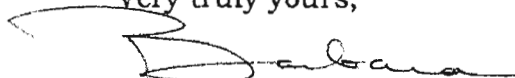
Dear Sheldon:

Today I sent the enclosed letter to Sen. Jack Reed, recommending for his consideration John J. McConnell, Jr., for nomination as District Judge for the District of Rhode Island. While I understand that it is the senior senator who by tradition has the most influence on such appointments, I can only imagine that your input would be both valued and valuable and I hope that you would lend your support to Jack McConnell's candidacy.

Beyond the fact that he is a tremendously talented and smart litigator, with a wealth of legal and community experience, Jack should particularly interest you because of his establishment of a loan forgiveness program at Roger Williams University School of Law this past year. I know from your leadership on behalf of passage of the John R. Justice Prosecutor and Defender Incentive Act, for which we in the defense community remain grateful, that this is an issue you care profoundly about. It is truly remarkable that Jack, putting his personal philanthropy to work for his social philosophy, would take it upon himself to establish such a program. He is really an extraordinary person, who does extraordinary things.

There are few, if any, candidates who could equal Jack's credentials, and surely none who could surpass them. Beyond his role as a master of complex litigation, and beyond the breadth of his volunteer work in Rhode Island, he is held in the highest esteem by the Rhode Island Bar. As you know from many years of practicing law in a public arena, it is critically important that judges not only be the brightest lights we have, but be recognized as such. Jack's appointment would stand out as a brilliant move on the part of everyone involved in it.

Very truly yours,



Barbara Hurst
Deputy Public Defender.

RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC DEFENDER

160 Pine Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903

TELEPHONE: (401) 222-3492

FAX: (401) 222-3287

January 12, 2009

The Honorable Jack Reed
1000 Chapel View Boulevard
Suite 290
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920

Dear Senator Reed:

Occasionally, one is lucky enough to be able to do exactly the right thing, for the right reasons. I am privileged to be in that position, recommending John J. McConnell, Jr. to you for appointment to the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island. I can think of no lawyer I could recommend with more enthusiasm than Jack McConnell and no greater blessing that you could bestow on the citizens of Rhode Island than to put his name forward.

The value of letters of recommendation has a lot to do with the credentials of those who write them, and I think by virtue of my particular field of law I bring a valuable perspective to your consideration. I specialized in appellate practice during a 30+-year career and teach both state constitutional law and civil liberties issues at Roger Williams School of Law as an adjunct faculty. Thus, in both practice and academia, I have pursued the "purer" side of law – the cerebral side, the side that deals with law not only as a tool to resolve disputes between individuals but as an intellectual exercise in logic, rationality and persuasion.

You will no doubt receive letters recommending Jack from those who will attest to his compassion, his fairness and pursuit of justice, his record of public service, his reputation for honesty and integrity, and the esteem in which he is held in the legal profession. All of that is true and the accolades are well deserved. But the perspective that I offer you concerns Jack's talent for the *thinking* part of the practice of law, the intellectual capacity to appreciate legal issues beyond the ones that immediately present, and the ability to persuade others by the clarity of reasoning.

I have known Jack professionally and personally for a quarter century. I met him when I was a practicing appeals lawyer and he was a young law clerk at the Supreme Court of Rhode Island. Although we had only casual contact at that

time, as was appropriate for a law clerk and an attorney practicing before that court, it was clear that Jack's intelligence and creative thinking were a strong influence on the quality of the opinions issuing from that chamber. Jack has the ability to cut through a morass of side issues and focus insightfully on the crux of the problem. He specializes in complex litigation and that takes a certain kind of mind: one that can understand and think about legal issues on a variety of levels at once. Complex legal issues demand the ability to see and appreciate the application of principle *both* to the specific case at hand *and* to future situations not yet before the court. Interpretation of law is a living, almost breathing phenomenon, and Jack understands that. He is both reverential about the law and comfortable manipulating it. Though he is a powerful advocate, he is intellectually honest in his assessments about law, and his judgment is not clouded by his advocacy. Jack can put 100% of his energy into developing a legal theory to further a position he favors, and yet conclude with total intellectual honesty that the theory won't hold water.

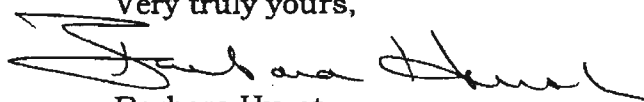
Jack is recognized in the Rhode Island Bar as an accomplished trial attorney. But the esteem in which he is held is a result not only of demonstrated litigation skills but also of the universal recognition of how smart he is. Jack's theories combine solid and unimpeachable legal analysis with creativity and vision, and he brings an unequalled talent as a lawyer to bear on everything he does. I have sat at countless crowded meeting tables and watched how carefully others listen to him, and how valued his opinion is. People pay attention when Jack talks.

Finally, Jack would bring a broad view of the world and the people populating it to his decision-making. His impressive record of public service is important because public service demonstrates caring and concern for others. But beyond that, an active life in the community helps to instill an awareness of how others live, and that is a critical attribute of good judging.

Jack is an extraordinary person who does extraordinary things, and nowhere is that more evident than in his establishing the loan forgiveness program at Roger Williams School of Law. I was very aware because of my public defender work of the leadership taken by the United States Senate in loan forgiveness programs, particularly the John R. Justice Prosecutor and Defender Incentive Act. That Jack would take on loan forgiveness as a personal cause is emblematic of who he is and what he cares about. He has used his skills as an attorney and his personal philanthropy to better the lives of countless ordinary people.

You would make us all proud to be Rhode Islanders if you put Jack McConnell's name forward for appointment to the federal bench and I urge you to do so.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Barbara Hurst", with a stylized, flowing script.

Barbara Hurst
Deputy Public Defender



Choose peace

THE INSTITUTE
FOR THE STUDY
& PRACTICE OF
NONVIOLENCE

DEC 22 2008

December 12, 2008.

The Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reed,

I am writing in support of Jack McConnell's nomination to the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island. Mr. McConnell is an exceptional human being, giving tirelessly of himself to the community. With great integrity, intelligence and care Mr. McConnell has supported causes and problem solving that improve the lives of Rhode Islanders of all walks of life. He has championed those who have the least, the sick, the elderly, and the poor. He has been instrumental in supporting the nationally recognized innovations experienced in Providence in the field of public safety, as the city left its corrupt past and entered an era that is focused on 'community policing', and violence reduction.

Mr. McConnell, has supported nonprofit organizations with time, advice, and donations, always as a can-do leader that pushes for more opportunities and growth. Mr. McConnell has led with humility and a ready smile, never complaining or even indicating how full his agenda is. He gives willingly and happily, and I often am surprised to uncover another effort in which Mr. McConnell has been a quiet leader.

Mr. McConnell has never forgotten his roots and, to an immigrant and a student of American history as myself, he signifies what is best about this country. These days, on an Ipod, I am reliving the 'Justice' class taught at Harvard by Michael Sandel. I have no doubt that Mr. McConnell will bring great intellect and balance to his work as a judge. Mr. McConnell is a man of courage. Even in a free society it takes great courage to stand-by the poor, the vulnerable, and for minorities. Mr. McConnell every day lives the credo that in this country everyone deserves a fair chance.

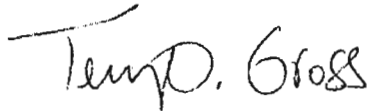
Mr. McConnell will grapple with the issues at hand, both with deep respect and empathy to those standing in front of him, as well as deep care with the legal and philosophical traditions of this country. Mr. McConnell is also a modern man and as the legal system is increasingly asked to arbitrate in a growing complexity of issues, his experience and intellect will make him an outstanding judge, building on his exceptional legal career.

With the appointment of Mr. McConnell, Rhode Island has the opportunity to shine and lead by appointing a good, honest, intelligent, and deeply committed community leader, to the position of a judge. Rarely have so many good qualities been found in one person.

I submit this letter with pleasure to your deep consideration.

Choose Peace,

Teny Oded Gross

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teny O. Gross". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Executive Director.

trinity repertory company

JAN 06 2009

December 29, 2008

Curt Columbus

Artistic Director

Michael Gennaro

Executive Director

Jack McConnell

Board Chair

Senator Jack Reed
1000 Chapel View Boulevard
Suite 290
Cranston, RI 02920

Stephen Berenson

Angela Brazil

Timothy Crowe

William Damkoehler

Janice Duclos

Mauro Hantman

Phyllis Kay

Brian McEleney

Barbara Meek

Anne Scurria

Cynthia Strickland

Fred Sullivan, Jr.

Stephen Thorne

Rachael Warren

Joe Wilson, Jr.

Resident Actors

William Lane

Eugene Lee

Resident Designers

D. Salem Smith

Paula Vogel

Resident Playwrights

Amanda Dehnert

Kevin Moriarty

Resident Directors

Dear Jack,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and prospering in the new year. I know that all of us are looking to the coming months with great expectation and relief. I am certain you will be an important part of all of the good things to come.

I am writing to you today to offer my voice in support of Jack McConnell's candidacy for federal district court judge. As the chair of Trinity Repertory Company's board, Jack was the very first person I met in Rhode Island during my interview process. His warmth, intelligence, and gentle humor were apparent from that first encounter and, quite honestly, were a large part of my decision to take the job at Trinity in the first place.

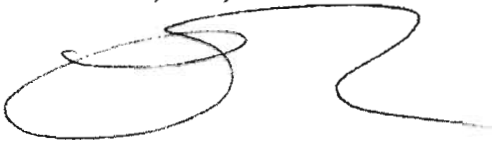
There was one quality which was not apparent in that first meeting, but which became crystal clear over the next several years. Jack McConnell is one of the most passionate people I have ever met when it comes to the pursuit of justice. He is driven by a selfless desire to see that truth wins out over falsehood, that right is served, and that wrongs are redressed. As a lawyer, Jack has always been dedicated to serving others, rather than serving himself. If this assessment makes Jack sound like some sort of overgrown boy scout, nothing could be further from the truth. His probing intelligence and keen wit keep Jack McConnell firmly planted in the realities of the world. He simply chooses to use his considerable gifts for the good, rather than the expedient.

In the interest of full disclosure, there is no question that Jack McConnell has been my champion during my first three years as artistic director. He is an enormous part of the reason that Trinity Rep has been enjoying the kind of creative success we have had since my arrival. But I am not being swayed by the job he has done for Trinity; I have worked closely with many board members in

my time, and Jack is among the most extraordinary of individuals. Hands down, extraordinary.

I am sure that my voice will only be one of many in support of Jack McConnell, and I hope that my observations will be helpful when considering his candidacy. Please know that my support is unconditionally and fully given. If you have any further questions, I would be delighted to hear from you. Please give my warmest regards to Julia and Emily. I hope that I will see you at the theater sometime in the near futures.

Yours, ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, loopy 'C' followed by a series of connected loops and a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Curt

Curt Columbus
Artistic Director
Trinity Repertory Company

cc: Senator Sheldon Whitehouse



160 Broad Street • Providence, RI 02903 • p 401.521.2255 • f 401.421.7410 • www.crossroadsri.org

February 6, 2008

FEB 07 2009

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
170 Westminister Street, Suite 1100
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Senator Whitehouse:

I am writing this letter in support of John J. McConnell and his potential nomination to the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island. Let me begin by saying how honored I was that Mr. McConnell even asked me to write this letter - I can not imagine a person I could recommend more enthusiastically.

I first got to know Mr. McConnell when he came for a tour Crossroads. After we spent about an hour walking around our facility at 160 Broad Street I asked him if he would ever consider coming on the board. His response was something I believe best defines who he is. He said "After seeing it, how could I not?".

I have now had the distinct pleasure of working with him for the past three years. In that time I have learned what a man of compassion, commitment, generosity, intelligence and humor he is. He has enriched the board of Crossroads and as a result has had a very real impact on thousands of homeless adults and children throughout the State.

He is fair, open and willing to listen to all sides of a situation before he weighs in with his opinion. He is respected by everyone on the board and is seen as a leader by all. I am honored by the fact he is part of Crossroads and can not imagine a more perfect candidate for the United States District Court.

Thank you for your consideration.

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne M. Nolan", is written over a circular stamp.

Anne M. Nolan
President

December 26, 2008

The Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

DEC 30 2008

Dear Senator Reed,

I am writing to support Jack McConnell's candidacy for Federal District Court Judge for the District of Rhode Island.

First, may I start by saying that I have never met anyone with a bigger or kinder heart than Jack McConnell. Those of us involved at the group home consider him to be our guardian angel sent to us directly from God.

Our story begins:

Patrick, Kenny, Lisa and Joanne were all born about 50 years ago and diagnosed with developmental disabilities. They were admitted to Zambarano Hospital as infants. They were tied to their cribs, fed, and had their diapers changed. They were never shown love in any form. They were never cuddled or kissed all over and their families were discouraged from ever visiting. In 1983, as part of the state's deinstitutionalization plan, the four were moved into their first-ever home in Lincoln. They blossomed, thrived, and achieved skills never previously imagined. They learned how to communicate and make choices. They learned how to make their beds, grocery shop, and even help make dinner. They quickly learned what McDonald's and Dunkin Donuts were all about. If they could, they would probably tell you that learning how to make a pot of coffee was the best out of all the things they ever learned. This group home became a true home, filled with love and laughter, trust and security, and a place where all could grow and thrive.

Life was great for the four until 1995. At that time, the State of Rhode Island faced a budget shortfall. On June 16th, I received a phone call ordering me to evacuate my clients to my other group home in Smithfield. Later that day, I was told that the group home was closed and would never re-open. Quickly, the four began to react negatively to their new placement and began begging us to take them "home". We, as the staff, did everything we could to protest this move to the State. We even had the Providence Journal do a story on us. We wrote and called all legislators---but nothing worked.

As hope began to fade, Jack McConnell walked into our lives. He had heard about our story and graciously volunteered to help. Jack approached the four without fear and with a sensitivity and

compassion rarely seen with this population. While all others were telling us to stop and to suck it up, we saw daily the agony this move was causing the four. Taking the role of our personal hero, Jack took the governor and the Department of MHRH to Superior Court. Jack stood up for the rights of our most vulnerable citizens, folks without a voice or vote, and won their home, their lives, and their happiness back for them. I can't even begin to put into words the joy we all experienced in moving back home. Life was great again!

However, our story with Jack does not end there. In 2007, once again Patrick, Ken, Lisa and Joanne were targeted as the object of a budget cut (why we constantly try to balance the budget on the backs of our neediest and most vulnerable citizens is beyond my comprehension). Once again, Jack was there for us. He dropped everything and immediately won a permanent injunction, restraining the state from closing our home.

Today, Patrick, Ken, Lisa and Joanne continue to live and thrive as a family at 27 Southwick Drive in Lincoln. Please understand that the only reason they continue to live in happiness and peace is this man, Jack McConnell. Jack received nothing in return for his services except our unending gratitude and love. Not many would give freely of their time and talent as Jack has. He cared when no one else did. He heard the cry of our most vulnerable citizens and acted with compassion, sensitivity, and love. What better qualities could a candidate for judgeship possess?

Jack McConnell gave freely of his time, effort, and expertise, helping to essentially save the lives of four of our state's most vulnerable and helpless citizens. I give my highest possible recommendation and endorsement to a man whom I consider to be a savior and hero to the people that I care most about. Based upon these extraordinary qualities and his widespread legal accomplishments, I consider him to be the strongest candidate you could ever find for the United States District Court of Rhode Island.

If I may be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

_____-_____
_____-_____

Sincerely,



Beth Keeling

Supervisor of Southwick Drive Group Home

Cc: The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse

Michael C. Gerhardt
Doree M. Goodman
39 Bagy Wrinkle Cove
Warren, RI 02885


FEB 28 2009

February 27, 2009

The Honorable Jack Reed
1000 Chapel View Boulevard
Suite #290
Cranston, RI 02920

Dear Senator Reed:

We write to strongly support your consideration of the nomination of our friend John (Jack) McConnell, Jr. to serve on the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island.

We have known Jack for many years in numerous contexts and quite frankly can think of no one better qualified and suited to fill the role of US District Judge.

Of course his intellectual capacity and skill regarding the law are beyond dispute, as evidenced by, among other things, his extremely successful legal career. But, more importantly, have a discussion with Jack on a wide variety of topics ranging from culture, to social policy, to current affairs and you will find him extremely well informed, reflective, curious and both interested and interesting. Given the wide range of issues before the Court, he would bring a refreshing breath of vision and insight.

But, Jack is much more than a smart, well connected man. He is intensely involved in attempting to solve the significant issues of the day. We have been drawn to him because of his involvement with clearly progressive candidates for governor, for mayor and for president. The energy he brought to these efforts was both engaging and inspiring.

We recognize that there are many political activists in the community who are involved in broader issues but Jack has always gone well beyond many of them in terms of his contribution of both time and monetary resources. We have encountered him in his leadership roles at Planned Parenthood, Crossroads, WRNI Public Radio and Trinity Repertory Theatre where he has unquestionably made a significant difference in the lives of Rhode Islanders. As in his personal, professional and political lives, Jack both understands the complex issues involved and leads by example to resolve them.

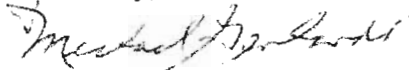
However, what is more important is the manner in which Jack approaches his many responsibilities. He is a person who is deeply respectful of the views of others; he is a true humanist, fully committed to the values of equality and inclusion. He also has a bright sense of humor and a positive perspective which he brings to all of his endeavors. It is our opinion that he will bring all of these characteristics along with his strong, deeply rooted values, to the position of US District Judge.

We are acutely aware, as we are sure you are, of the extreme damage done to the federal judiciary by the appointments made over the last eight years. The appointment of someone with Jack's background, attributes and personality can begin to restore the authority and balance that has recently been missing in this critical institution. We follow the important cases that are before the court and we are sure that, if appointed and confirmed, Jack would serve in a manner that would make you and all (well perhaps not all) Rhode Islanders proud.

We urge you to recommend the appointment of John (Jack) McConnell to serve on the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you wish to discuss in more detail our recommendation of Jack McConnell.

Sincerely,



Michael Gerhardt



Doree Goodman

C: Senator Sheldon Whitehouse



MAR 07 2009

SUSAN SYMONDS
INTERIOR DESIGN, LLC

February 20, 2009

Dear Senator Reed,

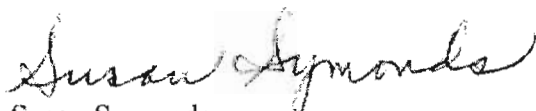
I recently learned that Jack McConnell is being considered for an appointment to the open federal district judgeship in Rhode Island.

I have known Jack for over 18 years personally and professionally. His dedication and commitment to the law and the community is beyond measure. Jack has spent his life devoted to the country, to the community, family and friends.

A man of integrity, honor, Jack is thoughtful, brilliant and judicious. There could never be a better candidate.

I would like to add my name to those who believe in and know him. I welcome his appointment.

Sincerely,


Susan Symonds

Cc: Senator Sheldon Whitehouse

184 Poppasquash Road
Post Office Box 319
Bristol, Rhode Island 02809
February 22, 2009

The Honorable Jack Reed
1000 Chapel View Boulevard, Suite 290
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920

Dear Senator Reed:

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination John J. McConnell, Jr. to the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island.

I have had the good fortune of knowing Mr. McConnell for several years, at first through political activities and more recently through our work on behalf of Trinity Repertory Theatre Company and Roger Williams University on whose Boards of Trustees we both serve. In every situation in which I have observed Mr. McConnell interact with others or have heard him speak, I have been impressed with his quick intelligence, his articulateness and his fairness. In his role as President of the Board of Trustees of Trinity Rep, in particular, he has often skillfully brought divergent views to consensus. He has an ability to know exactly when to intervene in an emotionally charged situation and negotiate people towards a resolution that they see as fair. I have never seen him do this in a heavy-handed way; on the contrary, he can be quite self-effacing. Rather, Mr. McConnell brings people together in a manner that is respectful to all parties and leaves them feeling that they have been fairly heard. This is a rare characteristic of a good man and a true leader.

There is no question that Mr. McConnell has the legal skill and experience to be a judge. Moreover, anybody who reads the newspaper is aware of his lifelong commitment to helping the less fortunate both inside and outside the courtroom. However, it is his personal qualities of fairness, empathy and the ability to effect compromise in even the most difficult cases that will ensure that Mr. McConnell is not just a good judge but a truly outstanding one.

I therefore urge you to consider the nomination of John J. McConnell, Jr. to the federal judiciary for the District of Rhode Island. He will make us all proud.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to speak further about this recommendation.

Warmest personal regards,

Suzanne McTigue Magaziner

[REDACTED]

h: [REDACTED]

c: [REDACTED]

cc. The Hon. Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate

BARBARA F. BALDWIN
81 Hudson St.
Providence, Rhode Island 02909

February 23, 2009

FEB 24 2009

The Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senate
1000 Chapel View Boulevard, Suite 290
Cranston, Rhode Island 02909

Dear Senator Reed:

I am writing concerning the nomination of Jack McConnell, Jr. to United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island.

I have worked with Jack for a number of years, as a board member of Planned Parenthood of Rhode Island, on numerous political campaigns, and most recently on lead safety issues. I have always been impressed with his commitment to righting wrongs and defending the most vulnerable Rhode Islanders. His volunteer work reflects this passion serving on the boards of Planned Parenthood of Rhode Island, Crossroads Rhode Island, the Genesis Center, and the George Wiley Center. He has served as a volunteer for Big Brothers of Rhode Island. These organizations serve some of our most defenseless populations.

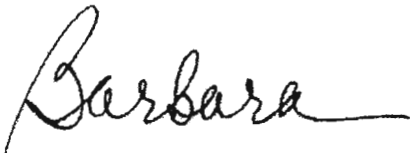
Despite our difficult economic times, Jack continues to contribute to a number of organizations that are struggling to keep services available here in Rhode Island. Times are challenging, and without individuals like Jack it would be difficult to push ahead.

I can think of no one I would rather see in a judicial position because of his integrity, honesty, and sense of fairness as well as 25 years of experience practicing law. I hope you will seriously consider supporting Jack's appointment to the District Court here in Rhode Island.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, I would welcome speaking with you or one of your staff members.

I also want to thank you for all you are doing in Washington to get us back on track.

Sincerely,



Barbara F. Baldwin

For your information

CC: The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate

FEB 25 2009

February 23, 2009

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate
170 Westminister Street, Suite 1100
Providence, RI 02903

Senator Whitehouse:

We would like to express our utmost support for John J. McConnell and urge you to consider him for the vacancy within the United States District Court in Rhode Island.

Over the past few years, we have been privileged to know Jack in many capacities. We have had the pleasure of working with him through various civic and community engagements where we have experienced his commitment and dedication to volunteerism. His community leadership has been inspirational to young professionals throughout Rhode Island. It is apparent that throughout his life, Jack has demonstrated three important qualities: intelligence, integrity, and compassion. We firmly believe these qualities have ultimately contributed to his personal and professional success and it would be these qualities that he would bring to the Federal Judiciary.

At Roger Williams University, Jack has served as an educator, mentor, and role model for aspiring public servants and has personally influenced both of our lives. He is a tireless advocate for all those involved in the legal system, and in particular those who devote their life's work to legal service for the less fortunate. At the same time, Jack values our Constitution and understands the challenges of maintaining an independent judiciary in a world that is consistently changing. Jack's appointment to the United States District Court would ensure justice will be dispensed in a fair and equitable manner to all.

Thank you in advance for considering our recommendation of Jack McConnell to the U.S. District Court and please do not hesitate to contact either of us if you would like to talk further:

[REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

Meghan Grady

Meghan Grady, MPA

Kimberly Ahern

Kimberly Ahern

Bob & Jill Jaffe

15 Freeman Parkway • Providence, RI 02906 • Phone: [REDACTED]

E-Mail: [REDACTED]

FEB 27 2009

Date: February 24, 2009

Senator Jack Reed
1000 Chapel View Boulevard
Suite 290
Cranston, RI 02920

Dear Senator Reed:

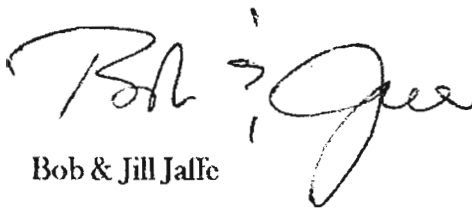
We hope that this letter finds you well and thriving with the new direction that our government has taken.

We are eager to endorse the appointment of John J. McConnell, Jr. as federal district court judge. We have both had the privilege to work with Jack in many capacities in the not for profit, city, and political arenas. He has consistently shown himself to be a thoughtful listener and a prudent activist. His name always comes to mind whenever a just social cause needs an advocate. Jack has proven again and again both in his personal and public life what it means to be a truly great citizen of Rhode Island.

There is no doubt in our mind that he will be a scrupulously fair jurist and rule with compassion and honesty.

We cannot think of a better choice.

Our very best to you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bob & Jill Jaffe", written in dark ink.

Bob & Jill Jaffe

cc: Senator Sheldon Whitehouse ✓

January 25, 2009

The Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senator, Rhode Island
1000 Chapel View Boulevard, Suite 290
Cranston, RI 02920

JAN 27 2009

Dear Senator Reed,

When Jack McConnell asked me to write him a letter of recommendation for nomination to the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island, I was delighted.

Mr. McConnell asks for so little and has almost done everything I have asked him to do. Many years ago I asked him to sit on the Board of Trinity Repertory Company; he is now the Chairman of the Board. And a great Chairman he has become. Jack is a take charge kind of guy.

When recommending someone for the position of a judge, I always think about whom I would like to judge me. For Jack is ultimately fair, always informed, and usually the most erudite person in the room. I would accept any sentence Jack handed down knowing that it would never be a frivolous or capricious judgement.

I also like to look at the total person when I make a recommendation. Jack is the consummate family man, he's a fine husband, and a creative and caring parent, and just about the best son or brother one could hope for. His professional life has been a string of remarkable accomplishments. His record as a community volunteer is as dazzling as it is varied. Jack isn't a talker; he is the one person on a committee that I can always be count on to do what he says he is going to do, and then some. No wonder everyone in town is after him.

There are two primary Jacks in my life, and both of you have such an endless reservoir of grace and nobility. Both of you have made not only my life richer, but also all of the people that you both encounter in your very busy lives. There must have been something in the Rhode Island water supply to turn out two such spectacular Jacks. Lucky me, lucky us.

I think back to my early church training and some nun telling me "Judge not, lest ye be judged." I say, "Bring on the judge, and let that judge be Jack McConnell." He gives us so much hope for our collective futures.

Warmest regards,

Charles Sullivan
Professor of English, CCRI, Retired

William G. Foulkes
120 Brown St.
Providence, RI 02906

January 27, 2009

U.S. Senator Jack Reed
1000 Chapel View Boulevard, Suite 290
Cranston, RI 02920

JAN 28 2009

Dear Senator Reed:

Congratulations on the beginning of your new term.

With the concurrent commencement of the Obama Administration, we now have an exciting opportunity to have input on policy and personnel decisions in the executive and judiciary branches.

I understand that one of these decisions, the appointment of a federal district court judge for the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island, is currently under review.

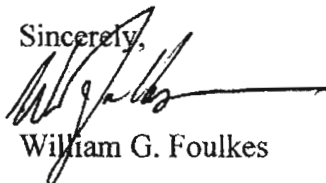
While I am sure you have numerous excellent candidates under consideration, I strongly recommend Jack McConnell, Jr., an attorney at Motley Rice in Providence.

I have lived and worked for fifteen years in Rhode Island, first with the strategy consulting firm, Telesis, then as an executive at two small software firms, Context Media and MTI Film and, finally, as the Executive Director of the Center for Design and Business. I have known, and have known of, Jack McConnell for nearly this entire time. Most recently, I serve on the board of the Trinity Repertory Theater where Jack is chair.

Jack is an outstanding attorney, a dedicated and creative civic leader, and a great ally of those who need a helping hand. I cannot imagine a better choice for the future decisions before the District of Rhode Island than Jack McConnell. His combination of kindness, legal expertise and business acumen make him a rare and valuable find for this appointment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



William G. Foulkes

CC: Senator Sheldon Whitehouse