

April 23, 2015

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
437 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Leahy:

We write to endorse the nomination of Cono Namorato to be Assistant Attorney General for the Tax Division, a position for which he is enormously – and uniquely – qualified. Each of us has known Mr. Namorato for a long time. He was, for a decade, a senior career lawyer in the Tax Division, rising to the level of Chief of the Criminal Section and then Deputy Assistant Attorney General. He then spent twenty-five years in private practice. He therefore understands tax law, tax litigation and tax controversies from both the public and private perspectives. In both private practice and public service, Mr. Namorato has enjoyed a stellar reputation as one of the most knowledgeable and fair-minded lawyers in the nation.

His respect for public service is further evidenced by his decision to leave private practice, from 2004 to 2006, for a job as Director of the Office of Professional Responsibility at the Internal Revenue Service. The work of that Office is to ensure that tax practitioners live up to their professional responsibilities and that there is rigor in the system. This is not a position one takes for glory. It is a position that one takes to make sure that government works as citizens should expect it to work.

It is for these reasons that we – former senior leaders of the Department – believe that Mr. Namorato will be a superb leader of the Tax Division if confirmed by the Senate. We urge you to act positively on his nomination.

Sincerely,

Paul K. Charlton
US Attorney for the District of Arizona, 2001-2007

Benjamin R. Civiletti
Attorney General, 1979-1981

James M. Cole
Deputy Attorney General, 2010-2015

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Robert B. Fiske, Jr.
US Attorney for the Southern District of New York, 1976-1980

Jonathan L. Goldstein
US Attorney for the District of New Jersey, 1974-1977

Jamie S. Gorelick
Deputy Attorney General, 1994-1997

Richard L. Thornburgh
Attorney General, 1988-1991

Alan Vinegrad
US Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, 2001-2002

Seth P. Waxman
Solicitor General of the United States, 1997-2001