

October 14, 2020

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
290 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Graham and Ranking Member Feinstein:

As fellow students of the law, we appreciate the work of the Judiciary Committee and the enormous impact it has on the nation. To aid your work in the context of the confirmation process for Judge Amy Coney Barrett, we, her classmates from the University of Notre Dame Law School class of 1997, write to share our perspective and endorsement with you. We enthusiastically support Amy to succeed the trailblazing Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg as an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

We represent diverse backgrounds, political affiliations, and philosophies about the role of judges. Despite these differences, we share the view that the highest court in the land deserves jurists of the highest caliber of intellect matched with the fair-mindedness, empathy, integrity, humility, good humor, and commitment to justice that Judge Barrett embodies.

As fellow students, we often learned more from Amy than the professor whenever she had asked a thoughtful question in class or engaged in a considerate debate with the professor. Her insight and approach to the discussion always elicited clear thinking, elucidated the issue, and demonstrated an open-mindedness to all sides of a debate. We were better for having been her classmates. Amy earned our admiration because of her consistent preparation and rigor.

Throughout our time at school, Amy maintained focus and excelled in every class at Notre Dame. More than that, she wrote the best exam in ten of our courses. This, alone, is seemingly impossible for any one student. But, it was not surprising to any of us. We all understood her talent and counted upon her to set the pace for academic performance. Assured by her strength, she remained calm during times of academic tension. Instead of bending to pressure, she offered to help classmates. Amy lifted others up by guiding their studies and sharing her notes and insights to help improve the capacity of her classmates. Indeed, she was a leader in the law school and served as Executive Editor of the *Notre Dame Law Review*. Yet, she wore

these accomplishments lightly, letting her work ethic and kindness communicate to all observers.

During our law school years with Amy, together we grappled at the early stages of our legal careers with difficult constitutional issues, administrative challenges, ambiguous statutes, and common law principles. During our studies, we witnessed Amy's growth and her uncommon ability to rise above her peers in the way an all-star basketball player clearly outclasses all others on the court, yet takes the responsibility of lifting up everyone's level of play. Amy is a unique individual who if confirmed, again, by the Senate, will elevate the game of all involved with the most important Court, not just the practitioners before it but also those who will be her colleagues and staff. Amy treats all with dignity and respect. How she interacted with us then is how she still treats her fellow citizens today.

Judge Barrett is uniquely grounded in real American life. She hails from Louisiana, studied in Tennessee, and lives in Indiana. Her parents raised her and her siblings to love their nation and God, and she and her outstanding husband Jesse have done the same with their children in the suburbs of northern Indiana. Amy is a mother of seven loving children, including two adopted from Haiti and a son with special needs. Yet, Amy balances the demands of being a spouse, mother, family member, friend, scholar, and federal judge in a way that only someone with her grace and personal excellence can do. Her efforts are as remarkable as they are inspirational. With this background, Amy will bring a meaningful and compelling voice to the work of the Court, represent a particularly genuine experience, and animate the highest ideals of American jurisprudence for the benefit of all she serves.

Undergirding everything about Amy—and perhaps most fundamental to her character—Amy is as kind to others as she is intelligent and hardworking.

Amy will always be open, kind, fair and just, and we request your support and vote for her confirmation. Having known Amy for nearly three decades, we are confident she will apply the laws of the United States objectively and with compassion. She will do so not as a partisan, but as a servant of the Constitution and all people governed by those sworn to defend it. Thank you for your consideration and leadership.

Sincerely,

Members of the Notre Dame Law School Class of 1997

Ben Allison

Tom Arkell

Erica Anaya

Jeff Bauer

Bill Anaya

Nancy Bride

Alfonso Castillo

Ruth Chow

Geoffrey Cockrell

Chris Coulter

Anthony Coury

David Creasy

Russell Day

Katharine DiSalle

Daljit Doogal

Matthew Doring

Christopher Duba

Kellyann Johnson

Timothy Egan

Kathryn Elias

Sean Elliott

Kevin Espinola

Jonathon Fligg

Janette Forman

Jennifer Gehrlein

Michael Gleason

Colleen Haas

Brian Harr

Dan Hayes

Tim Heverin

Daniel Hillman

Masanori Hirata

Dennis Hollahan

Matt Kent

Amy Kim

Kenlyn Kolleen

Ed Leader

David Lee

Andrew Leyden

Jonathan Lienhard

Sean Litton

Fortunato Lucido

Alicia Maria Matsushima

Steve McBride

Mary Elizabeth McNamara

Jeffrey Miller

Todd Miller

Scott Moran

Maria Jose Morinigo

Michael Nader

Melissa O'Loughlin

Julie Vales

Edwin Palmer

Jack Vales

Stacey Palmer

Kevin West

Ronald Parisi

Michael Whatley

Michelle Porter

Scott Whipple

Craig Prins

Andrea Wilson

Mike Rielly

Charles Winfield

Michael Rittinger

Peter Witty

Melanie Rubocki

Thaddeus Wojcik

Jerri Ryan

Jeffrey Schmidt

Andrea Sharetta

Mitch Silver

Christopher Slick

Tricia Solomon

Michael Starzan

Thom Steinke

Dan Tarpey

Raymond Tittmann

Barry Toone

Toni Turner

Thomas Tuttle