

June 11, 2018

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

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Julius Ness Richardson
to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit

Dear Chairman Grassley and Senator Feinstein:

We write today to express our support for the nomination of Julius Ness ("Jay") Richardson to serve as a Circuit Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. We each served with Jay as law clerks at the United States Supreme Court during October Term 2004, when Jay clerked for the late Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist. We currently serve in positions spanning private practice, business, public service, and academia.

We hold a diverse range of political and jurisprudential views, and our collective experience includes service in Administrations of both parties and for Senators of both parties. Among us, some are concerned about the politicization of the process by which federal judicial nominations are made and confirmed, and some have expressed misgivings about certain of the President's past and current nominees to the federal bench. But with respect to Jay, we are unified in the belief that he possesses the temperament, experience, intelligence, and judgment to serve with distinction as a Court of Appeals judge. All 34 of his fellow law clerks from that Term, from every Justice's chambers, have signed this letter.

As fellow law clerks, we each have had the opportunity to observe firsthand Jay's approach to the law and his conduct with colleagues in assisting with the demanding workload of the Court. Each of us worked with him on cases and became familiar with his written work.

In addition to excellence in his legal work, Jay was known for the seriousness with which he took his responsibilities; the open-minded, scrupulously candid, and doggedly thorough way in which he evaluated the law and facts of each case on which he worked; the compassion and humanity with which he approached all situations; and the collegial manner and respect that he showed to his colleagues, whether or not they were in agreement on a particular case. These same qualities, in our view, would serve to make Jay an excellent Circuit Judge on the Fourth Circuit.

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Jay's experience and achievements since he concluded his Supreme Court clerkship in 2005 are well known to the Committee and need not be repeated in detail here. After finishing his clerkship, Jay practiced law in Washington, D.C., as a commercial litigator before returning to his native state of South Carolina in 2009 to serve as an Assistant United States Attorney, the position he still holds. As a federal prosecutor with responsibility for a number of important cases, Jay has participated in all aspects of the federal judicial process, making hundreds of appearances in federal district court and arguing numerous appeals before the Fourth Circuit. Through this set of experiences, Jay has become highly knowledgeable about the law, traditions, and policies of the Fourth Circuit, experiences that will doubtless serve him well if he is confirmed to serve as an appellate judge.

In sum, based on our work with Jay, we believe he is a highly qualified nominee for a position on the Fourth Circuit. We support him without reservation.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our collective support. We would be pleased to provide any further information that would assist the Committee in its consideration.

Sincerely,

Ginger D. Anders
Law clerk to Justice Ginsburg

Melissa Arbus Sherry
Law clerk to Justice Stevens

Andrew C. Baak
Law clerk to Justice Kennedy

Joel C. Beauvais
Law clerk to Justice O'Connor

Daniel Powell Calabretta
Law clerk to Justice Stevens

Catherine M.A. Carroll
Law clerk to Justice Souter

James P. Dowden
Law clerk to Justice Breyer

Theane Evangelis
Law clerk to Justice O'Connor

Tali Farhadian Weinstein
Law clerk to Justice O'Connor

Aimee Feinberg
Law clerk to Justice Breyer

Curtis E. Gannon
Law clerk to Justice Scalia

Roberto J. Gonzalez
Law clerk to Justice Stevens

Michael J. Gottlieb
Law clerk to Justice Stevens

Jennifer K. Hardy
Law clerk to Justice Thomas

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Law clerk to Justice Kennedy

Matthew S. Hellman
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Law clerk to Justice Scalia

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Law clerk to Justice Scalia

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Law clerk to Justice Ginsburg

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Daniel S. Volchok
Law clerk to Justice Souter

Henry C. Whitaker
Law clerk to Justice Thomas

The writers have signed this letter in their personal capacities and not on behalf of current or former clients or employers.