



July 24, 2017

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

SUBJECT: Statement in support of Senate confirmation of  
Eric Dreiband for position of Assistant Attorney  
General for Civil Rights

Dear Chairman Grassley, Ranking Member Feinstein, and  
Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

This letter is in support of the pending Senate  
confirmation of Eric Dreiband for the position of Assistant  
Attorney General for the Civil rights Division. For thirty -  
seven years, from 1968 through 2006, I was a career  
attorney at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

(EEOC), where for over two decades , I served as Associate General Counsel. In that capacity at different times, I managed the Agency's nationwide trial and appellate court activities, and the systemic or large case litigation program. During my EEOC tenure, I served under all of that Agency's General Counsels. I worked with Eric Dreiband from August 2003 through September 2005. I consider Mr. Dreiband to be in the highest rung of the Agency's General Counsels in terms of ability, dedication and commitment to the goal of eliminating workplace discrimination.

The EEOC and the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division share judicial enforcement responsibilities in workplace discrimination matters. Over my multi decade tenure at the EEOC, I have worked collectively with the Civil Rights Division in the discharge of our two agencies' overlapping responsibilities. Having personal knowledge of the functions to be assumed by Mr. Dreiband as Assistant Attorney General, and having worked with him when he served as EEOC's General Counsel, I have no reservations whatsoever in supporting his Senate confirmation. I have no doubt that Mr. Dreiband embraces the goal of vigorously enforcing our civil rights laws.

Working closely with Mr. Dreiband, and having nearly daily contact with him over a two year period, I observed an attorney fully committed to the elimination of illegal discriminatory barriers in the workplace. I saw an attorney who was fully committed to the Agency's mission. He invariably sought career staff input in both fashioning broad policy recommendations and in exercising his prosecutorial responsibilities in specific cases.

As Associate General Counsel having responsibilities over both trial and appellate matters, and who previously himself

served "in the trenches" as a trial and appellate attorney, I applauded his position not to engage in private ex parte meetings with opposing counsel or with others who wished to influence the outcome of ongoing litigation without the presence of Agency legal staff involved in the matter.

As EEOC General Counsel, Mr. Dreiband regularly sought career staff input in the discharge of his prosecutorial and litigation oversight responsibilities. By way of illustration, I recall that he approached me, my Deputy and the Agency's labor economist/ statistician to read the voluminous trial record in an ongoing large Agency case to recommend whether the Agency possessed sufficient legal and factual grounds to maintain the litigation. While we advised Mr. Dreiband that the case had some evidentiary and legal hurdles to overcome, he approved our recommendation to continue the matter, which eventually was favorably resolved in a court approved settlement.

I view Mr. Dreiband as invariably well prepared, opened minded and solicitous of the views of others. It was a common occurrence that, when entering his office, he was immersed in a stack of briefs and other legal documents in preparation for lengthy discussions on the many nuanced issues to be resolved by the EEOC's General Counsel.

After giving serious thought to Mr. Dreiband's nomination to become our nation's chief civil right's prosecutor, based on my two years of working together with him, I have no reservations whatsoever relative to his integrity, commitment, and ability to discharge his singularly important responsibilities as our Nation's chief civil rights legal officer.

Sincerely,

/s/ Philip B. Sklover