



November 28, 2017

Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

It is my pleasure to write in support of the nomination of Judge Elizabeth L. Branch to be a Circuit Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. I have had the opportunity to work closely with Judge Branch in a variety of settings, especially in my role as Interim Dean and then Dean at Emory Law School from 2011 to 2017. I have been consistently impressed by Judge Branch's intelligence, legal skill, professionalism, and integrity.

Judge Branch's service on the Georgia Court of Appeals has given her extensive experience as an appellate judge. Despite the demands of that position, Judge Branch also has found the time for important community and professional activities. As I know from personal experience, she has remained very involved as a distinguished graduate of Emory Law School. Judge Branch's engagement includes membership on the Emory University Board of Visitors and membership in the Lamar Inn of Court. The Board of Visitors brings together leaders in the community to learn about Emory and to share their perspectives. Judge Branch has been a committed member of the Board. Through the Lamar Inn of Court, practitioners, judges, professors, and Emory Law students meet periodically to learn about legal topics and to promote a shared sense of professionalism. The Inn provides an outstanding opportunity for law students to benefit from role models and mentors. Through her participation in the Inn, Judge Branch has helped to support this important investment in the future of the profession. Outside of these organizations, Judge Branch has found other ways as well to contribute to legal education. She often speaks at the school and gives advice to students. When as dean I sought her insights, she always found time to provide wise counsel. She cares deeply about legal education and about

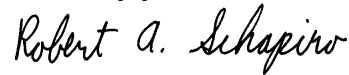
the future of the profession. She always seeks to assist students and to promote the cause of justice more broadly.

Judge Branch advances the profession in other ways, as well, including active participation in the State Bar of Georgia. In addition, as part of being an exemplary professional, Judge Branch supports and models important principles of wellness. She often rises before dawn to exercise, and she is a regular participant in the State Bar 5K race. She has great discipline and fortitude.

In all of her many activities, Judge Branch is a model professional and a credit to the Bar and her law school. In connection with Emory Law's centennial celebration last year, the school identified the 100 most distinguished members of the Emory Law community, past or present. This Emory Law 100 list honored alumni and faculty for "advancing the rule of law, making history at Emory or beyond, and significantly advancing the Emory or Emory Law community." Reflecting what she already has accomplished, Judge Branch was one of youngest members of this historic list.

Judge Branch is extremely well qualified for the position of Circuit Judge, and she has demonstrated that she would serve the cause of justice with distinction. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert A. Schapiro".

Robert A. Schapiro