

1589 Alencastre St.
Honolulu, HI 96816
March 28, 2018

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

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

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

I am pleased to write in support of the confirmation of Mark J. Bennett as a judge on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. I do so entirely as an individual, and not in my capacity as the Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai'i.

I have known Mark Bennett since I spent a sabbatical year in Hawai'i in 1999-2000, and I have had the pleasure to get to know him quite well since 2003, when I moved to Hawai'i and became the Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law. We have served together on the board of the American Judicature Society and I have had many additional opportunities to talk with Attorney Bennett and to see him in action. He is very highly regarded as a lawyer and he is also known for his unusually thoughtful approach to public issues.

I believe Mr. Bennett's willingness to help the Law School by teaching several large classes in Criminal Procedure while he was also serving as Hawai'i's Attorney General is particularly noteworthy. He assumed this additional burden with enthusiasm. It proved to be a boon for the students, and it also underscored Mr. Bennett's deep commitment to public service. In fact, the Law School is not allowed to pay state judges and others employed full-time by the state--beyond regular faculty members--when they serve as Lecturers at the Law School. Therefore, Mr. Bennett's admirable willingness to teach crucial, complex legal matters to the next generation was unpaid and entirely *pro bono*.

Mr. Bennett is known as an outstanding citizen for many other reasons. Furthermore, to the best of my knowledge, he has an unblemished reputation in our relatively small community, in which word travels fast. The only exception may be that Mr. Bennett is a fervent fan of the New York Yankees. Even as a diehard Red Sox fan, however, I believe that someone as well-qualified as is Mark Bennett can

nonetheless be-- despite such a character flaw--an outstanding lawyer and an excellent U.S. Court of Appeals judge

If additional details might be of use to you, please feel free to contact me by calling: 808-956-6363 or via e-mail at: soifer@hawaii.edu.

Thank you.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'C H' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Avi Soifer