



COLLEGE OF LAW

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Senator Charles Grassley
Senator Diane Feinstein

Dear Senators Grassley and Feinstein:

I write in support of the nomination of Associate Justice David R. Stras of the Minnesota Supreme Court to the United States Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit. I write as a part-time colleague of Justice Stras at the Iowa Law School, and I write in support even though I am a lifelong liberal with different values than his.

As to the former, I've known Justice Stras for a few years and regularly visit with him when he comes to the Iowa Law School to teach in an intercession course. And, of course, I've known of his sterling reputation in the academic community for a longer period. There can be no doubt that he brings the intellect expected of anyone appointed to a federal circuit judgeship.

As noted, I also support him even though I am a lifelong liberal knowing he is not. And, I do so knowing that had I the power to appoint judges I probably would have selected someone with views more compatible to mine than his. Nonetheless, I support him because ultimately what is more important to me as a citizen of the United States (regardless of my political dispositions and my value preferences) is that he is a man of the highest character and judicial temperament, a man whom you can always count on to be fair and respectful, a man committed to doing justice, and a man with an abiding commitment to upholding our Constitution and our other laws. And, ultimately those characteristics may be the most important you should consider when giving your advice and consent to appointments to the federal judiciary.

Sincerely,

Sheldon F. Kurtz