

**NATIONAL
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®**

309 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N. E.
WASHINGTON, DC 20002
PHONE 202-547-8189 • FAX 202-547-8190

CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

27 March 2009

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman and Senator Specter,

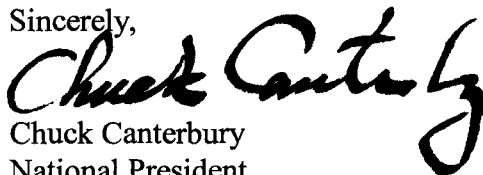
I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our strong support for Ronald H. Weich to be the next Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legislative Affairs at the U.S. Department of Justice.

Throughout his long and sterling career as a public safety policymaker, he has been a friend to the FOP, an advocate for law enforcement, and a passionate champion for justice. From the start of his legal career as an Assistant District Attorney in New York City to his current post as Chief Counsel to the Senate Majority Leader, Ron has the policy knowledge and experience to lead the Office of Legislative Affairs at a Department in sore need of leadership.

After leaving New York City for Washington, Ron served as Special Counsel to the United States Sentencing Commission, and worked with the law enforcement community to strengthen the Federal guidelines system and defended the constitutionality of the Sentencing Reform Act. He left the U.S. Sentencing Commission for Capitol Hill, and the FOP worked extensively and successfully with Ron to develop and enact the Armed Career Criminal Act while he was a member of Senator Arlen Specter's staff on the Committee on the Judiciary. We also worked with him while he was a member of Senator Edward M. Kennedy's Judiciary staff on anti-gang legislation, and on law enforcement labor issues when Senator Kennedy asked him to move over to work for him on the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. We continued our relationship with him when he left private practice and returned to the Hill to serve as the Senate Majority Leader's Chief Counsel.

I believe that the President has made a fine choice in Ronald H. Weich to be the next Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs, and I urge you and your Committee to expeditiously confirm his nomination. If I can be of any further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in my Washington office.

Sincerely,


Chuck Canterbury
National President

—BUILDING ON A PROUD TRADITION—

March 27, 2009

Senator Patrick J. Leahy, Chairman
Senator Arleen Specter, Ranking Republican Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6275

Dear Mr. Chairman, Senator Specter, and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

I am John R. Steer, former General Counsel and Vice Chair of the United States Sentencing Commission. I write to support the confirmation of Ronald H. Weich as Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs.

I employed Ron Weich in November 1987 as a Special Counsel on the legal staff of the Sentencing Commission, subsequent to his work with the Manhattan District Attorney's office. During his time with the Commission his valuable contributions included: 1) helping draft significant amendments to the sentencing guidelines, 2) successfully defending the constitutionality of the guidelines and the Sentencing Reform Act against nationwide separation of powers challenges, and 3) helping maintain a good working relationship with Congress as our lead legislative liaison. Mr. Weich proved to be an outstanding attorney with exceptional legal skills and excellent judgment.

After leaving the Sentencing Commission for service on Capitol Hill with, successively, Senator Specter, Senator Kennedy, and Majority Leader Reid, the Sentencing Commission has continued to regularly call on him for guidance and assistance. On a number of occasions he has worked with his principal to provide critical staff leadership in crafting important amendments to the Commission's legal authority and other sentencing statutes.

I believe Mr. Weich is well suited and superbly qualified to serve the Nation well as Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs. He is obviously knowledgeable of the legislative processes and has developed an excellent understanding of the variety of Justice Department issues and programs. Perhaps most importantly, Ron has accrued a well deserved reputation for fairness and professionalism. He is trusted and respected by Members of Congress and staff of both political parties as an attorney with exceptional ability and integrity. I strongly urge his prompt confirmation.

Sincerely,

John R. Steer

Senior Partner, Allenbaugh Samini Ghosheh LLP
General Counsel, US Sentencing Commission, 1987-1999
Vice Chair, US Sentencing Commission, 1999-2007

March 27, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
The Honorable Arlen Specter
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Republican Member Specter:

As individuals who formerly worked for Republican members of Congress, we write in support of the nomination of Ronald Weich to be the Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs.

Each of us worked with Ron during our time as a Republican staff member. While it should be obvious we did not always agree with every policy position that Ron advanced on behalf of the Senators for whom he worked, we could always rely on the fact that Ron is honorable and trustworthy. He dealt with us fairly and cordially. He respected opposing views and sought to find common ground with adversaries. We can attest to the fact that he is highly regarded among staffers – both Democrats and Republicans – for his knowledge of the Senate rules and his constructive approach to difficult legal issues.

We believe that Ron has the solid credentials to head the Legislative Affairs Office at the Justice Department. He currently serves as Chief Counsel to Majority Leader Reid, and previously worked for Senator Kennedy on both the Labor and Human Resources and Judiciary Committees. As you well know, Senator Specter, he also worked for you on the Judiciary Committee. These experiences have given Ron a keen understanding of the legislative process. He appreciates the importance of oversight and the prerogatives of Congress. He is also a former prosecutor and worked as Special Counsel to the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

In short, it seems to us that Ron Weich is an excellent choice to head the Office of Legislative Affairs at DOJ, and we urge that he be confirmed by the Senate.

Sincerely,

BRUCE ARTIM
Chief Counsel and Staff Director,
Senate Judiciary Committee (2003-2005)

MICHAEL O'NEILL
Chief Counsel and Staff Director,
Senate Judiciary Committee (2005-2007)

MAKAN DELRAHIM
Chief Counsel and Staff Director,
Senate Judiciary Committee (2001-2003);
Deputy Assistant Attorney General,
Antitrust Division, U.S.
Department of Justice (2003-2005)

MANUS COONEY
Chief Counsel and Staff Director,
Senate Judiciary Committee (1997-2001)

MARK DISLER

Chief Counsel (1995-1996) and Minority Staff Director (1993-1994); Minority Chief Counsel, Patents, Copyrights and Trademarks Subcommittee, (1989-1992), Senate Judiciary Committee

MICHAEL VOLKOV

Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee (2002-2004); Chief Counsel, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security, House Judiciary Committee (2005-2008)

MARK HEILBRUN

Deputy Staff Director and General Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee (2004-2005); Chief Counsel to Senator Arlen Specter (2001-2004); General Counsel, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (1995-1997)

KEVIN S. MCGUINESS

Chief of Staff to Senator Orrin Hatch (1988-1991); Minority Staff Director, Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee (1987-1988)

JAMIE BROWN

Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs (2004-2006)

AMY F. DUNATHAN

Senior Republican Counsel, Senate Banking Committee (2000-2002); Professional Staff Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (1998-1999); Legislative Director to Senator John Chafee (1988-1998)

JESSICA NICKEL

Legislative Assistant to Rep. Rob Portman (2003-2005)

MARK BARNES

Staff Attorney and Chief Counsel, Senator Ted Stevens (1981-1984)

PETER MADIGAN

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of Treasury (1986-1989); Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of State (1989-1991)

HAROLD H. KIM

Deputy Chief Counsel and Chief Civil Counsel (2005-2007); and Senior Counsel (2003-2005) Senate Judiciary Committee

THAD STROM

Chief Counsel (1991-1993); Chief Counsel, Antitrust Subcommittee (1994-1997); General Counsel (1988-1991), Senate Judiciary Committee

ALLAN HICKS

Chief Counsel, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (2004-2007)

PATRICIA KNIGHT

Chief of Staff to Senator Orrin Hatch (1998-2007); Professional Staff Member, Senate Judiciary Committee (1995-1997)

NIELS HOLCH

Chief of Staff to Senator Mitch McConnell (1987-1991)

MICHAEL TONGOUR

Chief Counsel to the Assistant Republican Leader, Alan Simpson (1989-1995); Legislative Director to Senator Strom Thurmond (1986-1987)

NANCY TAYLOR

Health Policy Director, Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources (1981-1991)

CARL HAMPE

Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee, (1983-1992); Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice (1992-1993)

MORRIE RUFFIN

Legislative Assistant to Senator Arlen Specter (1989-1994)



ROBERT M. MORGENTHAU
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

DISTRICT ATTORNEY
OF THE
COUNTY OF NEW YORK
ONE HOGAN PLACE
New York, N. Y. 10013
(212) 335-9000

March 27, 2009

Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Chairman
Honorable Arlen Specter, Ranking Member
United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Leahy and Specter:

I write to support the nomination by the President of Ronald Weich, Esq., as the Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs in the Department of Justice. Based on his work in this Office and his record of federal service in the years since then, I am confident that Mr. Weich would prove to be a conscientious and effective Assistant Attorney General.

Mr. Weich served as an Assistant District Attorney in this Office from 1983 to 1987, and I am fully familiar with his work during that period. I have followed his legal career since he entered federal service in late 1987, including the years he served as a counsel to your Committee. In both New York and Washington, Mr. Weich has maintained a reputation for probity, diligence and sound judgment.

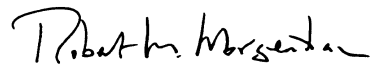
In the District Attorney's Office Mr. Weich was assigned to the Trial Bureau, where he led the investigation and prosecution of hundreds of criminal cases, ranging from misdemeanors to violent felonies. Under our system of vertical prosecution, Mr. Weich was responsible for each case from start to finish, including arraignment, presentation of the case to the grand jury, motion practice, plea bargaining and trial. Records from this Office indicate that Mr. Weich tried approximately 20 cases to verdict in his years as a prosecutor. He was known as a careful and fair-minded advocate who always sought the just result. He was admired by his colleagues, his adversaries and the judges in our courts for his skill and temperament.

After leaving my Office, Mr. Weich remained in government service for many years. He served as Special Counsel to the United States Sentencing Commission just as the federal guidelines were taking effect, and played a key role in the development of sentencing law in those years. He then worked in the U.S. Senate on a range of issues related to law enforcement. Members of my staff and I consulted with Mr. Weich regularly, including on occasions when I testified in Congress.

It appears to me that Mr. Weich has precisely the right credentials to lead the Legislative Affairs Office at the Justice Department. As a former prosecutor, he understands the real world of criminal practice and the needs of state and local law enforcement. As a long-time Senate staff member, he understands the needs of Congress and the complex relationship between the branches of government. As a former United States Attorney myself, I would be pleased to see the Justice Department represented in Congress by someone with the experience and abilities that Mr. Weich possesses.

For these reasons, I am happy to recommend Mr. Weich to the Judiciary Committee. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert M. Morgenthau". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "R".

Robert M. Morgenthau

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2101

March 30, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman, Senate Committee
On the Judiciary
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Ranking Member, Senate Committee
On the Judiciary
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Pat, Arlen and Members of the Committee:

I write to enthusiastically endorse Ron Weich's nomination to be Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs in the Department of Justice. You know Ron through his work for Arlen, followed by his impressive service on my Judiciary Committee staff when I was a member of the Committee, and his equally impressive service in recent years to our Majority Leader Harry Reid. I believe he's an exceptional choice for this position and I urge his prompt confirmation.

Ron served with distinction on my staff for nearly seven years, beginning in 1990 on the Labor and Human Resources Committee, as it was then known, and becoming my Chief Counsel on the Judiciary Committee in 1995. During his years with me, he had a major role in bringing the treatment of substance abuse and mental illness into the mainstream of medical issues, helping to develop and pass legislation consolidating the federal efforts in these areas in NIH, and also working to combat substance abuse.

Ron also worked to improve our justice system through his efforts on the 1994 crime bill, which significantly strengthened partnerships between local, state and federal law enforcement, as well as through his efforts to strengthen the Legal Services Corporation and his contributions on sentencing, racial justice and judicial nominations.

March 30, 2009

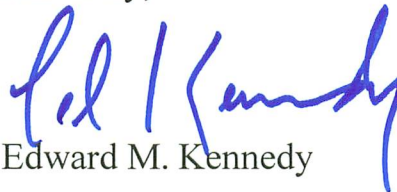
Page 2

In all he did, Ron consistently showed himself to be a lawyer of exceptional intelligence, skill and sound judgment. He has a remarkable ability, which he has demonstrated in his current position with Sen. Reid, to work extremely well with Members and staff on both sides of the aisle and to guide us toward creative solutions to seemingly intractable problems.

Ron's success in working with people of all political persuasions is a result of his unfailing professionalism, integrity and civility. He listens fairly to all sides of the issues and keeps the lines of communication open, but never loses his commitment to a fair and just result.

Ron's career in the law and in the Senate has given him a breadth of knowledge and experience that will serve him well as head of the Office of Legislative Affairs. He has thorough knowledge of Congress and a deep familiarity with the policy and legislative issues facing the Department of Justice, and I'm sure the Committee and all Members of Congress will benefit from Ron's service in this important position. I strongly urge the Committee to report his nomination favorably.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ed Kennedy", is written over the printed name.

Edward M. Kennedy

GLENN F. IVEY
STATE'S ATTORNEY



J. PATRICIA WILSON SMOOT
CARLOS ACOSTA
DEPUTY STATE'S ATTORNEYS

State's Attorney for Prince George's County
14735 Main Street, Suite M3403
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772
301-952-3500

March 30, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Ronald H. Weich

Dear Chairman Leahy:

I am honored to support President Obama's nomination of Ronald H. Weich, Esq. for the position of Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs.

I have known Mr. Weich for many years. I first worked with him during the Senate Whitewater Hearings when he served on the staff of Senator Edward Kennedy and I served on Senator Tom Daschle's leadership staff. Our paths continued to cross when he went to work for Senator Arlen Specter. In that time I developed great respect for his talents and abilities.

Mr. Weich has a rare combination of bipartisan legislative experience developed over twelve years of service on Senate committee and leadership staffs. Highly regarded by his colleagues, Mr. Weich's expertise reflects a strong understanding of congressional oversight, Senate rules and floor procedure.

His career includes work as a trial prosecutor in Manhattan, as a criminal defense attorney and as a civil practitioner. He has played a key role in the passage of very significant legislation, and worked with Justice Department officials in both Republican and Democratic Administrations on major issues. His combination of legal and political experience provides him the optimum ability to represent the needs and interests of the Department of Justice.

I strongly urge you to support Mr. Weich's nomination.

Sincerely,

Glenn F. Ivey

William W. Wilkins
Member
Admitted in SC

March 30, 2009

VIA ELECTRONIC AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

Senator Patrick J. Leahy, Chairman
Senator Arlen Specter, Ranking Republican Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6275

Re: Ronald H. Weich

Dear Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Specter, and
Distinguished Committee Members:

I am a retired Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and served as the first Chair of the United States Sentencing Commission and as Chair of the Criminal Law Committee of the United States Judicial Conference. I write to enthusiastically support the confirmation of Ronald H. Weich for the position of Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs.

I came to know Mr. Weich when he was hired to serve as a Special Counsel on the legal staff of the U. S. Sentencing Commission. In that position he provided valuable assistance in helping the Commission to promulgate the sentencing guidelines and subsequent amendments submitted to Congress. He also capably served as a part of our legal team that successfully defended the constitutionality of the guidelines and the Sentencing Reform Act against separation of powers challenges in federal courts throughout the country. As the Chair of the Sentencing Commission, I regularly called on Mr. Weich seeking his legal advice on a variety of issues. He was always responsive, hard-working and dependable.

After Mr. Weich took a position on the Senate staff of Senator Specter, and later with Senator Kennedy, the Sentencing Commission continued to call upon him for assistance on a variety of legislative issues. Throughout his years on Capitol Hill, his knowledge of criminal justice issues, Justice Department programs, and the legislative process has made him an invaluable contact for the Sentencing

Senator Patrick J. Leahy, Chairman
March 30, 2009
Page 2

Commission and the federal judiciary. He is an outstanding attorney with excellent legal skills and an in-depth knowledge of public policy issues.

I always found Mr. Weich to be open-minded, realistic, and insightful in his judgments. He is widely respected and trusted for his integrity, ability, and professionalism. I am pleased to support his nomination for the position of Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs and I am confident that, if confirmed, he will perform outstanding service to our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William W. Wilkins", with a stylized, cursive script.

William W. Wilkins

WWW:dd



Office of the
Special Narcotics Prosecutor
for the City of New York

Bridget G. Brennan, Special Narcotics Prosecutor

80 CENTRE STREET, SIXTH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10013
212-815-0413, OFFICE
212- 815-0144, FAX

March 31, 2009

Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Chairman
Honorable Arlen Specter, Ranking Member
United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Leahy and Specter:

I am writing to endorse the nomination of Ronald H. Weich to the position of Assistant Attorney General heading the Office of Legislative Affairs of the U.S. Department of Justice.

I have known Ronald Weich for more than 25 years, both as a colleague and as a personal friend. I first became acquainted with Ronald in 1983, when we started together as new Assistant District Attorneys in the New York County District Attorney's Office. Among the 50 bright, eager and talented attorneys hired by Robert M. Morgenthau that year from top law schools around the country, Ron stood out for his quick mind, legal acumen, and above all, for his dedication to justice.

Even as a new Assistant District Attorney, Ron distinguished himself with his comprehensive grasp of legal principles and sophisticated application of statutes to law enforcement issues. His approach was always thoughtful, thorough, practical, and fair minded. I marveled at Ron's ability to quickly process thorny legal issues in an objective and principled way.

During his time in the District Attorney's Office, Ron was highly regarded by law enforcement officers as a fearless advocate, and for his intelligence, work ethic, and ability to get things done. Ron also had an excellent reputation among judges, because, along with outstanding legal skills, he was always open to considering another perspective. None of Ron's former colleagues are surprised that he has had a distinguished career in positions of great responsibility, and that he has never strayed too far from public service.

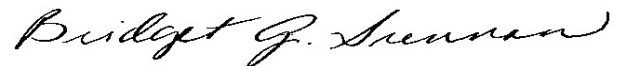
Through the years, I have often discussed with Ron the professional issues he has faced. I know that, in his role as Special Counsel to the U. S. Sentencing Commission, he made great contributions in efforts to reform sentencing law. During his extensive career as a high level member of the United States Senate staff, Ron contributed to the development and enactment of legislation that

aimed to ensure the just and fair administration of justice. He also played a primary role in the enactment of the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007, which provided clear guidelines in government ethics. While working for Senator Edward Kennedy, Ron worked tirelessly to enhance federal funding for research into the link between substance abuse and mental illness and to increase funding for drug treatment. My office has long recognized the connection between mental illness, drug addiction and criminal behavior; we were extremely grateful for his efforts to promote funding for the rehabilitation of criminal defendants who are mentally ill and drug addicted.

Several years ago, by happenstance, I had the great pleasure of testifying before the United States Sentencing Commission on the same day and on the same issue as Ron. His thoughtful analysis, deep sense of justice, and compassion were intact and as impressive as ever.

I recommend Ronald Weich for this critical position, not just on the basis of his exceptional abilities and extraordinary career, but for his sense of fairness and deep understanding of law enforcement issues. As the head of an agency dedicated to the investigation and prosecution of high level narcotics traffickers, I can unequivocally say that having someone with Ron's comprehensive vision leading the Legislative Affairs Office of the Justice Department will benefit law enforcement and the nation as a whole. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bridget G. Brennan".

Bridget G. Brennan
Special Narcotics Prosecutor
for the City of New York

March 31, 2009

Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Room 224
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We write in strong support of the nomination of Ronald H. Weich to the position of Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA) at the Department of Justice. Collectively we have many years of service in the Office to which Mr. Weich has been nominated. We understand and have great respect for the strong and effective leadership that OLA demands, given its crucial role in being responsive to the needs of Congress, and of this Committee in particular.

Mr. Weich is extremely well-suited for this job. First, his work in the U.S. Senate has given him deep knowledge of and respect for the U.S. Congress. He understands the needs of the First Branch and will be an advocate within the Department for those interests. He also understands law enforcement from the viewpoint of a line attorney given his early career as a prosecutor. These experiences, in addition to his tenure in the private sector, have honed Mr. Weich's exceptional capacity for calm, reasoned, and smart advocacy. As important, he has the temperament and demeanor to take on one of the most demanding posts at the Department of Justice, and will do so with an unfailing respect for those with whom he serves because of these exceptional qualities.

Each of the signatories to this letter has experience working with Congress on difficult and complex policy issues on behalf of an administration's Department of Justice. We know that, to do its job, Congress relies on information provided by the Justice Department on a range of issues. Mr. Weich is sensitive to the institutional needs of Congress and will be a constructive partner in the legislative process. Mr. Weich has consistently demonstrated good judgment, collegiality and legal acumen which will enable him to lead the DOJ's legislative efforts.

Page 2

We enthusiastically support Mr. Weich for the position of Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs. We are confident that, once confirmed, he will manage the Office well, serve as a talented addition to the new Administration, and work cooperatively and constructively with the Senate Judiciary Committee and the full Congress on solutions to some very complex challenges.

Sincerely,

Brian A. Benczkowski

Dennis Burke

Andy Fois

Ann Harkins

Will Moschella

Robert Raben

Pat Wald