



November 8, 2017

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate 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

Re: Honorable Don R. Willett – Nominee for the United States Court of
Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

Dear Senator Grassley and Senator Feinstein:

The judiciary must be comprised of men and women who love this country, have exemplary character, have extensive legal experience, and believe in the rule of law. Because Justice Don Willett is an outstanding jurist with those qualities, we wholeheartedly support his confirmation to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Don Willett is a man with priorities - God, family, country - and a principled jurist. Over the number of years that we served together on the Supreme Court of Texas, Justice Willett always sought to elucidate and enforce the legal principles in the Constitution and laws of the United States and of the State of Texas. His judicial philosophy evidenced a scrupulous commitment to the rule of law, and his authored opinions provided guidance on the law to the bench, the bar, and the public, in interesting and enjoyable prose.

Justice Willett believes that the legislative and executive branches make the law; courts construe and apply the law to various disputes. His demonstrated belief is that the courts should enforce both constitutional rights and constitutional limitations and uphold the rule of law, but not enforce a personal agenda. On occasion, we did not agree with each other or with him on the disposition of an appeal, but we respected Don's opinions and never doubted his devotion to principle. The identities of the parties before the Texas Supreme Court did not change Don's devotion to the rule of law. And importantly,

whether the Court's opinion was unanimous or Don disagreed with any of us, he was always a gentleman and a courteous and respectful colleague.

Don is also in his element when spending time with his family – his wife Tiffany and their children Jacob, Shane-David, and Genevieve. Anyone who sees his countenance when he talks about his family or observes his interactions with his family is immediately and deeply impressed that his priorities are the right ones.

We urge you to confirm Don Willett's nomination to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Respectfully,



Justice Dale Wainwright (ret.)



Justice Harriet O'Neill (ret.)



Justice Scott Brister (ret.)



Justice David Medina (ret.)