

March 20, 2015

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

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
437 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Sally Yates as Deputy Attorney General

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Leahy:

We write to express our strong support for the nomination of Sally Quillian Yates to be the next Deputy Attorney General of the United States. Before her recent assignment to serve as the Acting Deputy Attorney General, Sally served for 25 years in the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia – 20 years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, including 15 as a supervisor, and the past five years as the United States Attorney appointed by President Obama and confirmed unanimously by the Senate. We are six of the seven United States Attorneys who preceded Sally (the seventh, William S. Duffey, Jr., is now a federal judge). Four of us were appointed by Republican Presidents, and two by Democratic Presidents, and each of us has been extraordinarily impressed by Sally Yates.

Sally was hired as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in 1989 by a Ronald Reagan appointee based on her outstanding academic record and her experience in private practice at one of the nation's leading law firms. After only five years in the office, Sally was promoted by a Bill Clinton appointee to be Chief of the

Fraud and Corruption Section, based on the skills she had already demonstrated in prosecuting complex and high-profile fraud and public corruption cases – skills that she has continued to demonstrate throughout her career, earning her a national reputation and membership as one of the few active prosecutors in the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers. In 2001, Sally was promoted by a George W. Bush appointee to be the First Assistant U.S. Attorney, the top career position in the office, based on her talents not only as a prosecutor but also as a leader and manager, including her ability to establish strong relationships with law enforcement and community partners. On top of her new duties as the First Assistant, Sally continued to serve as the lead prosecutor on major cases, including the successful prosecutions of the Atlanta Olympics bomber and a former Atlanta Mayor. And when she became the United States Attorney in 2010, Sally took the office to a new level of distinction in areas ranging from cybercrime and financial fraud to civil rights, human trafficking, and violent crime, while also becoming a national leader for the Justice Department as Vice-Chair of the Attorney General’s Advisory Committee and in the areas of sentencing reform and community outreach.

We have all worked closely with Sally, and several of us have also litigated against her since leaving the government. We can attest that Sally is among the very best federal prosecutors in the country. She understands that the core mission of the Justice Department is the vigorous, fair, and non-partisan enforcement of the law. Indeed, we know no one more dedicated to or competent in pursuing that mission. And because Sally does things the right way for the right reasons, she is admired and respected, personally and professionally, by her colleagues and adversaries, law enforcement officers, judges, and the community at large.

As United States Attorneys, we all reported to the Deputy Attorney General, and we are familiar with the demands and challenges of that high office. Several of us are also familiar with the position from service at Main Justice, particularly Mr. Thompson, who served as the Deputy Attorney General from 2001-2003. We are confident that Sally will make an excellent Deputy Attorney General. Her long experience in the field will give her a valuable perspective on many of the issues facing the Department and the nation; her

unimpeachable integrity and exceptional judgment will allow her to make the hard decisions that need to be made; and her grace and humor will help forge productive and cooperative relationships. Above all, Sally will always enforce the law without fear or favor, as she has throughout her distinguished career.

To sum up, we know Sally Yates well, and we know that she is a superb selection to be our country's next Deputy Attorney General. We urge the Judiciary Committee to act favorably on her nomination, and we urge the Senate to promptly confirm Sally Yates for this important position.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry D. Thompson

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U.S. Attorney (1982-1986)

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(Signatories' affiliations are listed for identification purposes only.)