

February 24, 2014

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman, Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
244 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Minority Member, Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

We are writing to express our strong support for the nomination of John Cruden to become Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Justice. He is a proven leader, a superb lawyer, and a patriot.

The undersigned are 26 former Presidents of the District of Columbia Bar. With more than 100,000 members, the D.C. Bar is the second largest unified bar in the United States. Its core functions include licensing lawyers, operating a disciplinary system to deal with professional misconduct, and maintaining a Clients' Security Fund. The Bar also undertakes educational and public service activities, including an award-winning program to provide pro bono legal representation to the poor. The President of the D.C. Bar is elected by the entire active membership.

John Cruden was President of the D.C. Bar in 2005-2006. He was the first person to serve as Bar President while working as a government lawyer. Leading by example, he strongly encouraged other government lawyers to provide pro bono legal assistance to people unable to afford a lawyer. He worked at Saturday morning clinics providing legal advice to low-income residents of the District of Columbia. He made the Bar more responsive to the needs of government lawyers and recruited government lawyers to participate for the first time in Bar activities. His legacy is a Bar that better serves the needs of its community, particularly those who cannot afford to pay for a lawyer; that reflects the diversity of law practice in its community; and that provides better support to its members in the public sector.

John's entire career has been devoted to public service. A graduate of West Point and a former Army Ranger, he had a distinguished career in military. He took the Law School Admission Test while he was serving in Vietnam. He was awarded the Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal. The quality of his work as a lawyer for the Army and as Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Environmental and Natural Resources Division is reflected in numerous citations.

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The vision and leadership John exhibited in getting elected President of the Bar and then in serving so ably in that position are talents he would bring to bear as Assistant Attorney General. John's integrity inspires trust. His unceasing good humor inspires loyalty. His intellect and judgment inspire confidence. Based on John's work with the Bar and on his long distinguished career in public service, we have no doubt that he would be a highly effective leader for the Division.

We urge that John be confirmed as Assistant Attorney General for the Environmental and Natural Resources Division.

Sincerely,

Sara-Ann Determan
DC Bar President, 1990-1991
Ronald S. Flagg
DC Bar President, 2010-2011
Jamie S. Gorelick
DC Bar President, 1992-1993
Shirley A. Higuchi
DC Bar President, 2003-2004
George W. Jones, Jr.
DC Bar President, 2002-2003
Kim M. Keenan
DC Bar President, 2009-2010
John C. Keeney, Jr.
DC Bar President, 2004-2005
Philip A. Lacovara
DC Bar President, 1988-1989
Carolyn B. Lamm
DC Bar President, 1997-1998
Myles V. Lynk
DC Bar President, 1996-1997
Andrew H. Marks
DC Bar President, 1998-1999
Darrell G. Motley
DC Bar President, 2011-2012
John W. Nields, Jr.
DC Bar President, 2000-2001

Daniel A. Reznick
DC Bar President, 1975-1976
James Robertson
DC Bar President, 1991-1992
James J. Sandman
DC Bar President, 2006-2007
Pauline A. Schneider
DC Bar President, 1994-1995
Robert, J. Spagnoletti
DC Bar President, 2008-2009
Joan H. Strand
DC Bar President, 1999-2000
Marna S. Tucker
DC Bar President, 1984-1985
Mark H. Tuohey III
DC Bar President, 1993-1994
Robert L. Weinberg
DC Bar President, 1978-1979
Robert N. Weiner
DC Bar President, 1995-1996
Melvin White
DC Bar President, 2007-2008
Thomas S. Williamson, Jr.
DC Bar President, 2012-2013
Charles R. Work
DC Bar President, 1976-1977