

August 28, 2018

The Honorable Charles Grassley, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Supreme Court Nomination of Brett Kavanaugh

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

We write to you as former lawyers of the White House Counsel's Office who served alongside Judge Brett Kavanaugh during his time at the White House. Each of us worked directly with him and observed first-hand his professional and personal conduct. We do not necessarily agree with every substantive view he has expressed, as a White House lawyer or now a federal judge. But we all do agree that Judge Kavanaugh is superbly qualified -- in experience, intellect, character, and temperament -- to serve as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. We urge the Senate to approve his nomination.

We offer three personal insights into Judge Kavanaugh's qualifications. First, we know that he is among the very finest candidates who could be nominated to serve on the Court at this time. Including with advice from members of your Committee, nearly all of us assisted President George W. Bush by searching across our nation to find the very best candidates for the federal judiciary, including the U.S. Supreme Court. Collectively, we researched and became acquainted with hundreds of worthy candidates from the generation of America's experienced legal professionals that includes Judge Kavanaugh. Having carefully studied this impressive pool of talent, we are confident that he is among the best the President could have chosen.

Second, we personally witnessed how Judge Kavanaugh performed his duties as Associate Counsel to the President and as Staff Secretary. He was extraordinarily skilled, diligent, and honorable, with a respectful temperament. He demonstrated balance, fairness, careful listening, personal decency and humility, and a gift for unpretentious personal interaction. He delivered his advice thoughtfully and with respectful consideration of the views of others. Despite the extraordinary pressure on the White House staff, particularly following the attacks of September 11, 2001, he projected calm, poise, and good humor. Beyond all that, we observed his good judgment and wisdom.

Third, we observed that Judge Kavanaugh properly understood his White House role and the role of the Presidency under the Constitution. The role of the Counsel's Office is to protect the interests and legal integrity of the Presidency of the United States. With this charge, he was known among his peers for his wise counsel and advocacy regarding the Presidency's institutional interests -- both enduring interests and those specific to the President we served -- within its Constitutional bounds. At the same time, he honored the Constitutional roles, rights, and powers of the other branches of government and the people. We know that any fair review of his record in that Office will yield a favorable conclusion. We also know that Judge Kavanaugh fully appreciates that the Constitution assigns to an Article III judge different responsibilities.

We urge this Committee to report Judge Kavanaugh favorably to the full Senate for a prompt vote to confirm him as an Associate Justice.

Signed,

H. Christopher Bartolomucci

David G. Leitch

John B. Bellinger III

Ann Loughlin

Bradford Berenson

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