

October 8, 2020

The Honorable A. Mitchell McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
290 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Dear Senators:

Amy Coney Barrett unassailably possesses the intellectual firepower to make a great Supreme Court Justice. I have known Amy for more than 25 years, as we were classmates together at Notre Dame Law School. Upon graduation, she earned the Hoynes Prize (awarded to the top student of the graduating class). She has excelled in clerkships with Judge Silberman and the late Justice Scalia, produced impeccable scholarship on a variety of legal issues, was selected three times as the Distinguished Professor of the Year by the graduating Notre Dame Law School class, and has already produced an outstanding body of jurisprudence as a sitting federal appellate court judge. But there is so much more to Amy Coney Barrett.

Amy was almost always the smartest person in the room, but came into the law at a time when women still struggled to find equal treatment in law school classes and before judges in state and federal courtrooms. Amy handled these injustices with decency and dignity. She cares deeply about the future of women in the legal profession and beyond. This is in no small part because she is the mother of four daughters.

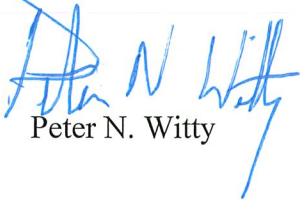
Amy shines. She lifts others up. I know this from personal experience. I finished my first year of law school with good but not great grades, while Amy had written the best exams in most of our classes. So, I asked for her help. She smiled, sat down, and explained her philosophy of studying the law. While I have nowhere near her intellect, drive, or focus, her explanations were so clear and concise that she helped me dramatically improve my grades in law school. Indeed, whatever success I may have achieved as an attorney is, in no small part, due to Amy's help when we were law students.

There are many similar stories to mine. Throughout her life, Amy has selflessly helped a fellow classmate, a student, an alumnus, a lawyer, or someone outside the law. Her humility in these efforts continues through all aspects of her life, including her work on the federal bench.

In my view, the most important thing we should demand of our Supreme Court Justices is that they keep an open mind when deciding cases—the issues that come before the Court are paramount to our society, to our continued existence as a beacon of personal freedom and opportunity around the world. Amy Coney Barrett models the best of that principle. She treats everyone with dignity and respect. She will apply the Constitution and the law objectively and with empathy, mercy, and compassion. She will not do so as a partisan. Rather, as she has done her entire life, Amy will do so in the spirit of service.

Amy Coney Barrett is the best of us. She is uniquely brilliant, exceptionally hardworking, fair, and genuinely good. Over the next several weeks, if the past is any indicator, she and her family will go through a crucible. But knowing her as I have for almost three decades, she will remain steadfast and come out stronger on the other side. Should you confirm her as a Supreme Court Justice, I have no doubt she will make us all proud.

Sincerely,



Peter N. Witty