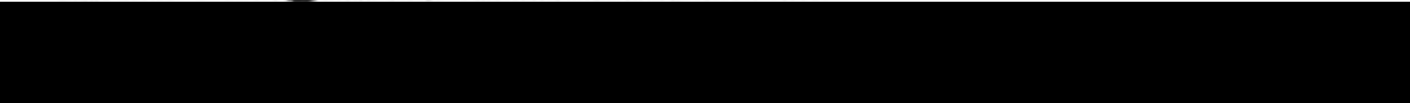



October 8, 2020

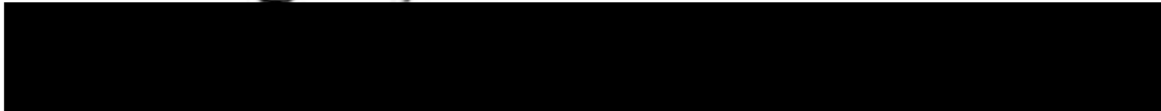
The Honorable A. Mitchell McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510




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:

In 2019, I walked into my statutory interpretation course intimidated. I joined the class one week late, having gotten a seat in the popular seminar off the waitlist. I was in my final year of law school at Notre Dame. There were fewer than 20 students, all smart, ambitious, with most on Law Review. On top of that, the professor's reputation preceded her. Amy Coney Barrett had herself been a top student during her time at the law school. In fact, rumor had it she was the last student to graduate with a perfect GPA. And, in addition to being a professor, she was a highly respected federal judge who regularly decided cases argued by some of the best lawyers in the country.

Mustering my courage, I sat in the only open seat in the class. A few minutes later, Judge Barrett walked in and sat next to me. My anxiety skyrocketed. I thought, "What if she calls on me to discuss today's reading and I bungle it?" But Judge Barrett just looked at me and said, "Welcome to the class Devan, I see everyone else gave you no other option but to sit next to me in the lion's den. Don't worry, you'll be fine, I'm excited to have you here!" Her sense of humor and kind words put me at ease.

As I am sure you know by now, Judge Barrett is a brilliant lawyer who will make an excellent Supreme Court Justice. What might not be as apparent is how hard she works to help her students, colleagues, and those around her. From that first day of class until today, Judge Barrett has been unfailingly kind and generous to me.

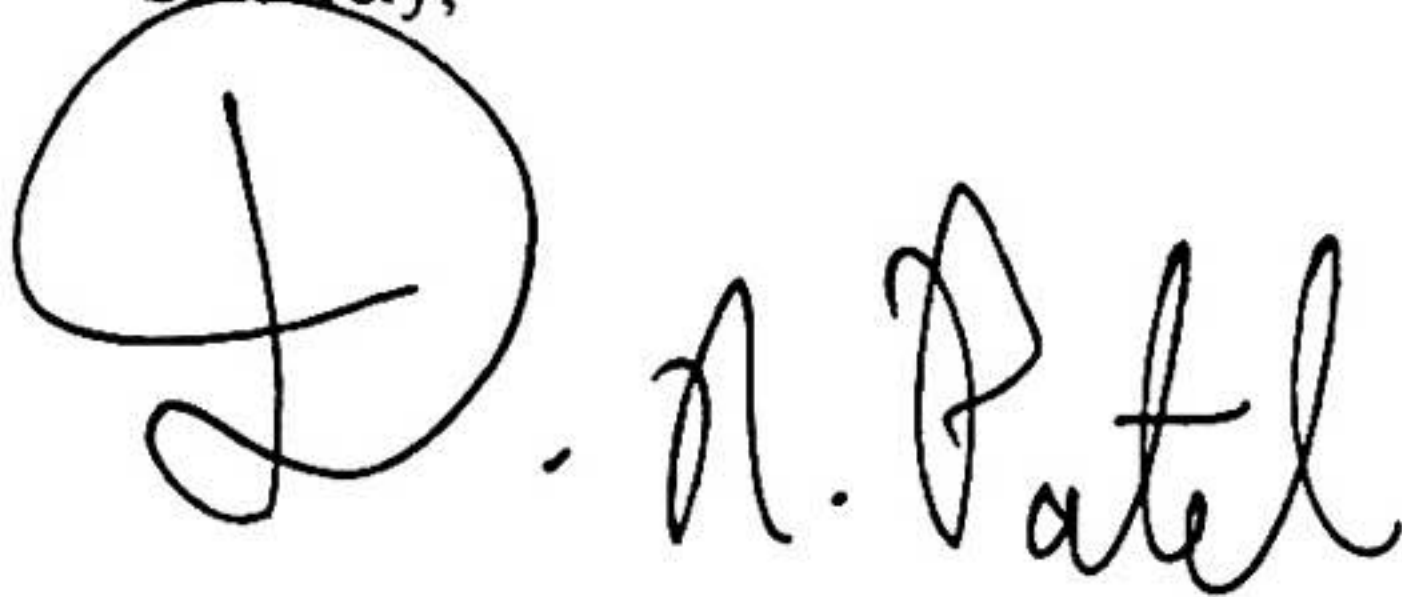
Like so many others this year, I lost my job due to COVID-19. After working for eight years to achieve my goal of being a public interest lawyer, it was a real body blow to have the prize of all those years of work taken in the blink of an eye.

Again, like so many others, I was unsure about how to move forward after being laid off. My family doesn't have longstanding connections to the legal profession. No one in my family is a lawyer. I was the first to graduate from college and pursue a legal education.

But I wasn't entirely alone. When Judge Barrett found out I lost my job, she immediately offered whatever help she could. She stayed in touch, checking in on how I was doing, and on how the job hunt was going. Thanks largely to her help and guidance, I was able to secure a new job and restart my career.

I am incredibly grateful to Judge Barrett. Despite what I am sure is an extremely busy schedule, she has always made time for me, helping me strengthen my legal skills as a student, land on my feet as a young lawyer, and showing me by example that our profession is, at its core, a calling to serve. That's who Amy Coney Barrett is. And if she is confirmed to the Supreme Court, I am certain that she will bring her compassion, kindness, and intellectual rigor to the position, for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink. The first letter 'D' is large and circular, with a horizontal line through it. The rest of the name 'N. Patel' is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Devan N. Patel