

JONES DAY

250 VESEY STREET • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10281-1047
TELEPHONE: +1.212.326.3939 • FACSIMILE: +1.212.755.7306

Direct Number: (212) 326-3830
lfdejulius@jonesday.com

October 14, 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

Re: Judge Amy Coney Barrett

Dear Senators:

I write to support the confirmation of Judge Amy Coney Barrett as Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. I graduated from Notre Dame Law School in 2002, five years after Judge Barrett, and just a few months before she returned to the law school as a professor. The timing was unfortunate in that I did not have the privilege of taking Judge Barrett's class. On the other hand, I was quite fortunate. Following graduation, I clerked for Judge Diarmuid O'Scannlain on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and Chief Justice William Rehnquist on the United States Supreme Court. It is no secret that Supreme Court law clerks primarily attend a handful of schools, namely Harvard, Yale, and Stanford. Judge Barrett, however, broke the mold. Her brilliance was apparent to all and her performance as a law clerk was well recognized. Notre Dame has had a consistent track record of graduates clerking on the United States Supreme Court since Judge Barrett, and without her paving the way, it is unlikely that myself and several others would have been hired as a Supreme Court law clerk. She made it clear that talented students did not reside solely at a handful of schools.

That is not to say it was easy to follow in Judge Barrett's footsteps. She set a high standard. Although several Notre Dame graduates clerked on the Supreme Court between Judge

October 14, 2020

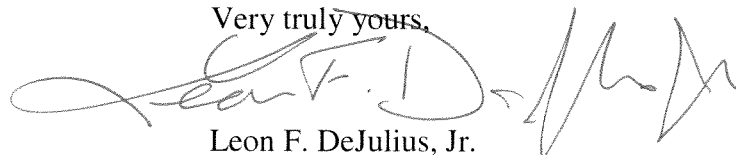
Page 2

Barrett and myself, we were judged against her, most often implicitly, but occasionally explicitly. I recall a conversation with a professor who said it is important that Notre Dame only recommend its brightest students to the Supreme Court, referring to "the Barrett test." Will the student, if hired, perform as ably as Judge Barrett? Will she be considered one of the Court's top clerks? Will he make the University proud? Twenty years ago, in the dawn of her legal career, Judge Barrett already had made an indelible impression on the professors that had taught her, that knew her as a person, and that soon would welcome her back as one of their own. Among exceptionally bright lawyers, Judge Barrett stood out.

Judge Barrett has continued to set the standard since her return to Notre Dame and her appointment to the federal bench. We say that Notre Dame educates "A Different Kind of Lawyer." No one has exemplified that standard more than Judge Barrett. She has shown us how to navigate a high-powered career, balance her marriage to another busy lawyer, and raise seven children. She became a well-known legal scholar and respected federal judge. She mentored and promoted her students and law clerks. And she gave back to her community and to her church. President George W. Bush said at the funeral service of my old boss, Chief Justice Rehnquist, "To work beside William Rehnquist was to learn how a wise man looks at the law and how a good man looks at life." I can think of no higher compliment and the same could be said about Judge Barrett. If given the opportunity to serve on the Court, Judge Barrett faithfully will follow the law and will be a role model for all of us working parents who struggle to balance our work and family lives.

Last time I saw Judge Barrett she encouraged me to enter public service. She has a strong belief that we must serve our country, which has provided us with so much. I cannot say I followed her advice, but it was not for her lack of effort or the power of her words. The fair and impartial administration of justice requires that the most brilliant legal minds dedicate their lives to public service and nowhere is that more important than on the highest Court. The Court lacks the ability to execute on its own decisions; its authority is derived solely from the persuasion of words and logic. Too often the political process discourages or precludes the most qualified person from exalted office. In this case, the President got the nomination right. No matter one's political views, there is no question that Judge Barrett is among the most exceptional lawyers of her generation. I enthusiastically encourage the confirmation of Judge Amy Coney Barrett.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Leon F. DeJulius, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Leon F. DeJulius, Jr.