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February 2, 2017

VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member

United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6050

Re: Nomination of Neil M. Gorsuch as Associate Justice,
Supreme Court of the United States

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein,

We are present and former partners in the law firm of Kellogg, Huber, Hansen, Todd, Evans & Figel, PLLC. We are Democrats, independents, and Republicans. Many of us have served in government, some during Republican and some during Democratic administrations; some of us have served in both. We have clerked for Supreme Court justices and appellate and district court judges appointed by Democratic and Republican presidents. We represent a broad spectrum of views on politics, judicial philosophy, and many other subjects as well. But we all agree on one thing: our former colleague, Neil M. Gorsuch – our associate – and then partner for more than a decade – is superbly qualified for confirmation to the position of Associate Justice of

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
February 2, 2017
Page 2

the Supreme Court of the United States. He is a man of character, decency, and accomplishment who merits this appointment.

We know Neil well. We worked closely with him, on a daily basis. Throughout his time with us, Neil demonstrated both a powerful intellect and a sterling character. In every aspect of his private practice, Neil excelled. He was a skilled and creative trial lawyer, a legal draftsman of concision and wit, and above all else a wonderful colleague who devoted himself fully to the best interests of our clients and was a pleasure to work with.

We saw Neil in times of professional triumph as well as in times of disappointment. Through highs and lows he was steadfast: courteous, collegial with co-counsel and adversaries, respectful of courts and the rule of law itself. He was as considerate and respectful of the night guard at our trial office in Paducah, Kentucky, as he was of captains of industry. He never displayed bias or hostility against anyone, and earned friends and admirers wherever he went.

Neil's equal regard for everyone extended to his work as a litigator. He zealously represented all of his clients – plaintiffs and defendants, individuals and corporations, nonprofits and small businesses, paying clients and pro bono clients – without regard to ideology. For Neil, each client deserved the best arguments that could be mustered, consistent with the facts and the law.

Outside the courtroom and the office, we saw Neil as a wise and empathetic friend, who always had time for his colleagues. He was and is devoted to his wonderful family, but he formed close and warm ties with his “work family” as well – his partners but also his associates, paralegals, researchers, administrative assistants, and other firm employees.

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
February 2, 2017
Page 3

Neil is not only a good and humble man, he is also an outstanding jurist. We are fully confident that he will decide cases on principled grounds; that he will work tirelessly to get each case right, on its particular merits; that he will be thoughtful about the views of his colleagues, and will deliberate respectfully and productively to reach consensus where that is possible; and that he will demonstrate the integrity and ability that we all saw in our years as his colleagues.

Several of us did not have the privilege of working directly with Neil, but have joined in this letter on the basis of the uniformly positive recommendations of our colleagues.

We understand the important responsibilities of the Committee, and we hope that our intimate knowledge of Neil, as a lawyer and as a person, will provide useful insight. As we stated at the outset, we are a diverse partnership; we do not address political issues or historical issues regarding prior nominations. We say only that Neil M. Gorsuch, our friend and close colleague for more than a decade, is exceptionally qualified to serve his country as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

Very truly yours,

Antonia M. Apps, Former Partner
Scott H. Angstreich, Partner
Steven F. Benz, Partner
Rebecca A. Beynon, Partner
Daniel G. Bird, Partner
Joshua D. Branson, Partner
William J. Conyngham, Partner
Courtney S. Elwood, Partner
Mark Evans, Former Partner
Kenneth M. Fetterman, Partner
Reid M. Figel, Partner
David C. Frederick, Partner

KELLOGG, HUBER, HANSEN, TODD, EVANS & FIGEL, P.L.L.C.

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
February 2, 2017
Page 4

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