

June 21, 2017

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman, United States Senate
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

We write in emphatic support of Beth A. Williams's nomination to serve as Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Policy.

Each of us served alongside Beth as clerks for the Honorable Richard C. Wesley of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Through that experience, and through our close friendships since then, we have known and admired Beth as an attorney with extraordinary skills and as a person with unmatched integrity.

Our unqualified support for Beth is based on her exceptional character, not our politics. The four of us have diverse backgrounds: one served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York under both Hon. Michael Garcia and Preet Bharara; another recently served on the enforcement staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission under the leadership of outgoing Chair Mary Jo White; one serves as the chief legal officer for one of the most progressive cities in the country; and another is a distinguished litigator and founder of a boutique Manhattan law firm. Our views range across the political spectrum and include profound disagreements with the policies of the current administration. Yet we are all confident that Beth's unimpeachable integrity, sound judgment, superb legal skills, and unwavering commitment to the rule of law will serve this Nation well.

Beth is an exceptional fit for the position to which she has been nominated. She has long been engaged with matters of legal policy, including judicial nominations. Following her *magna cum laude* graduation from Harvard College with an A.B. in History and Literature, Beth attended the Harvard Law School and served as Executive Editor of the *Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy*. After completing her clerkship alongside us, Beth served as Special Counsel to this Committee, facilitating the confirmations of Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. and Associate Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr. of the United States Supreme Court.

There is no doubt Beth has sterling conservative credentials, but we also have no doubt that Beth's dispassionate attention to facts and evidence means she will never cling to orthodoxy at the expense of hard truth. Her *pro bono* work at Kirkland & Ellis LLP, where she is now a partner, provides an apt illustration. In her *pro bono* work, Beth zealously represented prisoners and other unpopular litigants, but maintained her focus on the law and the facts of each matter—politics notwithstanding—and achieved excellent and just results. We are confident that Beth

will approach her position as Assistant Attorney General with the same clear-eyed view of fact and law to the benefit of the public.

We enthusiastically urge the Senate to confirm Beth A. Williams as the next Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Policy. She is brilliant beyond question, unerringly civil, and a lawyer of the highest integrity. We are confident that, if confirmed, Beth would serve all the people of this country in the very finest traditions of the United States Department of Justice.

Sincerely,

Brian M. Feldman
Aaron O. Lavine

Dominick D. Barbieri
Michael C. Rakower