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RORY K. LITTLE

Joseph W. Cotchett Professor of Law

March 3, 2017

Senator Dianne Feinstein
Washington, D.C.
By fax: 202-228-3954

Senator Kamala D. Harris
Washington, D.C.
By fax: 202-224-2200

Re: Support for the Nomination of Rod J. Rosenstein
as Deputy Attorney General for the United States

Dear Senators Feinstein and Harris,

I write to urge you to vote in favor of confirming Rod Rosenstein to the position of Deputy Attorney General of the United States at the U.S. Department of Justice. I have known Rod for over 20 years. I know him to be a man of the highest integrity. He has served as a federal, and also Independent, prosecutor for almost thirty years, spanning Administrations of both parties. He has been admired and respected by all. I am confident that once you meet and observe Rod Rosenstein, you will feel the same way.

In 1996-97, I served as an Associate Deputy Attorney General (ADAG) at the Department of Justice (on leave from Hastings – Senator Harris’s alma mater! -- for a year). At that time, Rod was also working as a high-level Deputy in the Department of Justice. We would often meet to discuss issues and cases, both law and strategic discussions. I have stayed in touch with Rod ever since. His intelligence, good judgment, and independence, have always impressed me.

As you know, Rod has served as the Senate-confirmed U.S. Attorney in Maryland since 2005. It is highly unusual for lawyers in that position to serve under two Administrations, particularly under political parties with markedly different views – here, George W. Bush and Barack Obama. Both parties, however, have been tremendously satisfied with Rod’s steady and reliable service, not just briefly but over months and years. Similarly, the life-tenured federal judges in his District, also from both parties, uniformly applaud Rod’s trustworthy performance. Rod always steers a careful and well-informed course. He does not act rashly and he is not afraid to make hard calls. His integrity and good judgment have often assisted others within the Department of Justice in difficult times.

For over two decades, Rod and I have shared an admiration for David Margolis, a longtime Department of Justice official who also served with distinction across Administrations of all stripes. Sadly, David passed away last year. Others familiar with the Department can tell you that David Margolis was fiercely independent (as well as smart as a whip). Rod fittingly matches that profile. I have no doubt that Margolis would applaud Rod's nomination, not just on a personal level but also for its signal to the people of the United States that political independence will continue to prevail at the United States Department of Justice.

Certainly there have been controversial nominations under the current Administration. It is a perilous time, and transparent integrity is much needed. I am a lifelong Democrat and longtime supporter of you both. The current Administration was not my first choice and I know you agree that its nominations must be carefully scrutinized. However, I can assure you that the nomination of Rod Rosenstein is one that you can support without hesitation, and with confidence that he will serve honestly and with complete integrity.

Sincerely and with my best personal wishes,

Rory K. Little
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