



ROOTS OF REFORM JUDAISM

Inspired by the past, embracing today, shaping tomorrow

June 12, 2022

The Honorable Dick Durban, Chair
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

It is a personal honor to write this letter of support for Rachel S. Bloomekatz, who has been nominated by the President to a seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. I have known Rachel for almost thirty years, serving as her and her family's rabbi for many years in Nashville, Tennessee, and have watched her grow and mature from junior high school and high school to her outstanding undergraduate career at Harvard and Law School at UCLA. From those earliest years, Rachel was a person of integrity and honor, vast intellect, and honesty. She was recognized many times by both the faculty and students of her schools, from election of Inter-High, the association of all high schools in Nashville to her selection as Youth Mayor at the YMCA model leadership program.

Following her brilliant career at Harvard, Rachel earned similar praise and honor in her law career. After serving as Assistant Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, she served as law clerk for Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, an outstanding mentor for her.

I know that you have read all these qualifications in her CV and biography, so let me focus instead on Rachel Bloomekatz, the person. As her rabbi, I was her teacher and prepared her for her Bat Mitzvah and Confirmation in the Jewish faith. I was always impressed with her facile thinking, her grasp of difficult religious and Biblical concepts, and her unending commitment to the values of our faith. Several years later, I officiated her wedding to her brilliant and gifted husband, Dr. Micah Berman, Professor of Law at the Ohio State University, and have watched the growth of their two adorable children.

Rachel deep values, informed by her Biblical faith, have led to her compassion for people, and her commitment to justice and the law. Her honest, and integrity have been her trademarks, and she has lived these values throughout her law career, as I know she will do serving on the Court.

While I could go on for many pages, I know that simply meeting her, whether in person or "online" will impress you more than words from me. I enthusiastically commend her to you and hope you will support her in this important new undertaking.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Kenneth A. Kanter, D.D
Rabbinical Director
Roots of Reform Judaism