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Chairman Senator Dick Durbin
Ranking Member Senator Chuck Grassley
Senate Judiciary Committee
226 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20002
(via e-mail)

Dear Senator Durbin and Senator Grassley:

I am a Professor of Law and the Director of the Constitutional Law Institute at the University of Chicago Law School. I am writing this letter (in my individual capacity) to support the nomination of Patrick Casey Pitts to be a district judge for the Northern District of California.

I have known Mr. Pitts for nearly two decades, and have remained in touch with him throughout our lives, from law school, to clerkships, to our subsequent legal careers. During the time we have been friends and professional colleagues, I have developed a firm view of his character, intellect, and ability: they are all of the very highest caliber.

Mr. Pitts's credentials and accomplishments are extensive. He is a graduate of Yale College and Yale Law School, a former clerk for Ninth Circuit judge Stephen Reinhardt, and now a partner at Altshuler Berzon, a prominent law firm that specializes in public interest litigation.

Mr. Pitts is hard-working, honest, and public-spirited, and has devoted himself to both his clients and the public good. He is an excellent lawyer, a mentor to younger lawyers, and a servant of his community. He is extremely accomplished without displaying the kind of selfish ambition that is too common in many lawyers who get ahead. I am sure I am one of many who will say this about him.

So now let me emphasize something more unusual, which also reflects the reason I have taken the trouble to write to you. Mr. Pitts and I have very different political and legal views. I am a political libertarian, a constitutional originalist, and one of the recipients of the Federalist Society's Paul M. Bator Award. Suffice it to say that I am sure I will disagree with many legal

decisions that Mr. Pitts might reach as a federal judge. But I believe he should be confirmed, and will be an excellent judge nonetheless. In the many years I have known him, I have always found him to be thoughtful, open to exploring opposing perspectives, and committed to the shared norms of our legal system.

In our system, neither political party, and no particular philosophy, yet has a monopoly on appointments to the bench. Elections have consequences, and the excellence of the judiciary depends on Presidents of each party being able to appoint excellent and fair-minded lawyers to the bench. Mr. Pitts embodies that excellence. And I am especially confident that he would be fair-minded, dedicated to following the law without regard to partisan fashion, and willing to give a fair hearing to all who appeared before him.

Best regards,



William Baude