

Senator Patrick J. Leahy
Chair, US Senate
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy:

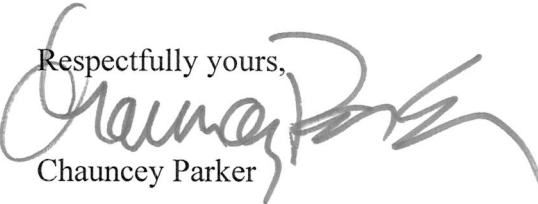
This letter is respectfully submitted in support of President Obama's nomination of Caitlin Halligan to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. I have served in criminal justice at the federal, state and local levels for over 25 years. Caitlin Halligan is among the finest public servants with whom I have ever worked and would be a fantastic judge.

By way of background, I have served as the Director of the New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program for over 15 years. As you know, HIDTA is a federally-funded program that seeks to build innovative law enforcement partnerships to reduce the harmful consequences of drug trafficking and drug abuse. During the 15 years that I have served as the NY/NJ HIDTA Director, I have also served in other federal, state and local positions. From 1992 to 2002, I served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York under US Attorney Mary Jo White. From 2002 to 2007, I served as the Director of Criminal Justice for New York State under Governor George Pataki, where I oversaw all state criminal justice agencies. For the past year, in addition to my role as the NY/NJ HIDTA Director, I have also served as a senior advisor for crime strategies and crime prevention for Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance, Jr.

While I was the Director of Criminal Justice for Governor Pataki, Caitlin served as the Solicitor General for New York State. She was a steady and forceful advocate for the Governor's criminal justice policies. Over the past year, as members of Manhattan DA Vance's executive team, Caitlin and I have worked closely together on several criminal justice projects.

In my view, Caitlin would be an exceptional judge. She is extremely smart. She has a razor sharp legal mind. She quickly and fully understands the most complex criminal justice policy or legal issues. Caitlin is also fair and open-minded. She always seeks first to understand the facts and the law or policy, and then determines her own position. Finally, and in my view most importantly, Caitlin has extraordinary integrity. She is honest, decent and genuine. As a judge, I have no doubt that she would make decisions wisely, carefully and fairly, based solely upon the facts and law.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my views of Caitlin Halligan. It is my honor and privilege to write on her behalf. She is one of those people who makes you proud to be in public service. If I can be of any further assistance, please contact me at (347) 420-3628 or parkerc@dany.nyc.gov.

Respectfully yours,

Chauncey Parker

cc: Senator Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member, US Senate Judiciary Committee
(same address)