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VIA FAX

June 16, 2011

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley, Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Caitlin J. Halligan to the United States Court of
Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

On behalf of the Women's Bar Association of the District of
Columbia (WBA), we write to express the WBA's enthusiastic support
for Caitlin J. Halligan's nomination to the United States Court of
Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Ms. Halligan is exceptionally well-qualified for the position to
which she has been nominated. Her confirmation would add not only
superior intellect, but also much needed diversity to the federal appellate
courts.

The WBA's principal goal in supporting judicial candidates is to
ensure the appointment of qualified judges and, consistent with that goal,
to increase the number of judges who support the mission of the WBA.
We give priority in our recommendations to candidates with extensive
litigation experience, a demonstrated commitment to the equality of all
litigants, and an attention to women's needs and concerns. The WBA
evaluates each candidate for endorsement by reviewing his or her resume
and other supporting documentation, and by discussing, with references

the candidate's qualifications, integrity, temperament, experience, and commitment to the concepts of equal opportunity and equal justice under law.

Ms. Halligan is without question eminently qualified to join the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals. Her academic and legal credentials are of the highest caliber. Ms. Halligan's legal career began at Georgetown University Law Center, where she graduated Order of the Coif and was Managing Editor of the Georgetown Law Review. She subsequently clerked for Judge Patricia M. Wald on the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, and later for Justice Stephen G. Breyer of the United States Supreme Court. The majority of her outstanding legal career has been focused upon public service. From 2001-2006, she served as Solicitor General of the State of New York, and she currently serves as General Counsel to the New York County District Attorney's office. In between, Ms. Halligan headed the appellate practice at Weil, Gotshal and Manges, LLP. She has served as counsel of record for a party or amicus at the certiorari or merits stage in more than 40 matters in the United States Supreme Court. She has also argued five cases before the Court, including as recently as March 2011, and won awards from the National Association of Attorneys General in five consecutive years as New York's Solicitor General.

Ms. Halligan's contributions to the legal profession have extended well beyond her day job. She has taught as an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center, and as a Lecturer in Law at Columbia Law School. Ms. Halligan has also made significant *pro bono* contributions, serving as a member of the Boards of Directors of the National Center for Law and Economic Justice and the Fund for Modern Courts, as *pro bono* counsel to the Board of Directors of the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, and as counsel for Hurricane Katrina and Rita evacuees before the Fifth Circuit. Through her activities, Ms. Halligan has demonstrated a commitment to the concepts of equal opportunity and equal justice under law both inside and outside the courtroom.

Given her record of achievement and breadth of experience, it is not surprising that Ms. Halligan has received a unanimous rating of Well-Qualified from the ABA's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary, the highest rating available. She has the support of numerous organizations, including the District Attorneys Association of the State of New York, the National District Attorneys Association, the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police, the New York State Sheriffs Association, the New York Women in Law Enforcement, and the National Center for Women & Policing. In addition, a bi-partisan group of prominent appellate practitioners that includes Cliff Sloan, Sri Srinivasan, Miguel Estrada, Carter Phillips and numerous others has submitted an enthusiastic letter praising the abilities and character of Ms. Halligan and expressing their unanimous belief that "Caitlin is an outstanding selection for the D.C. Circuit."

Beyond Ms. Halligan's obvious qualifications, we must note that her confirmation would add much needed diversity to the federal bench. Out of 179 seats on the federal appellate courts, only 50 are currently held by women. The D.C. Circuit has eleven authorized judgeships, with

Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia

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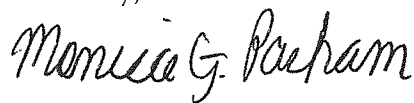
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two current vacancies, but only three women are among the active judges. Ms. Halligan possesses impeccable credentials and would be a worthy addition to the DC Circuit.

For all of these reasons, the WBA is proud to support Caitlin Halligan's nomination, and strongly urges the Senate to vote to confirm her to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. She is a superlative lawyer with a broad range of experience, and her commitment to fairness, stellar intellect, judicious temperament, and principled nature make Ms. Halligan a superb nominee. If you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please contact the WBA office at 202-639-8880.

Sincerely,



Monica G. Parham
President

cc: Ms. Caitlin Halligan

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