

November 15, 2011.

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

*Hon. Harry Reid,
Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.*

*Hon. Mitch McConnell,
Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.*

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

We, the undersigned law school deans and professors, write in strong support of the nomination of Caitlin Halligan to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Ms. Halligan's legal credentials, experience, and accomplishments make her exceptionally well-qualified to serve on this court. We also note that women have been historically underrepresented on this court, as only five of the fifty-seven judges to serve there have been women, and only three of the court's eight active judges are women.

Ms. Halligan graduated from Georgetown University Law Center with honors, including Order of the Coif. She clerked for Judge Patricia M. Wald on the D.C. Circuit Court, and for Justice Stephen G. Breyer on the U.S. Supreme Court. Ms. Halligan's career includes public service, private practice, and legal education. She worked for the Attorney General of the State of New York, including as Solicitor General of the State of New York, and currently serves as General Counsel to the New York County District Attorney's office. She was a partner and head of the appellate practice at Weil, Gotshal and Manges, LLP. In addition, she has taught as an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center and Columbia Law School. In all of these capacities, Ms. Halligan has won accolades for her judgment, legal acumen, and expertise in appellate litigation, which includes five arguments before the Supreme Court. Throughout her career, she has also contributed significant pro bono services.

Ms. Halligan received a unanimous "Well-Qualified" rating from the ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary. She has been endorsed by 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, the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia, the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations, the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce, and the National Center for Women & Policing.

We likewise offer our strong support of Ms. Halligan, and urge you to support her nomination to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. If you have questions or if we can be of assistance, please contact Columbia Law School Professor Gillian Metzger at (212) 854-2667 or at gillian.metzger@law.columbia.edu.

Sincerely,

(Signed by 107 women law professors).