



July 8, 2013

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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: Women's Bar Association's Endorsement of Patricia Ann Millett
for Judge, U.S. 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), I am writing to express the WBA's renewed support for the nomination of Patricia Millett to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Our principal goal in endorsing 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 consider, in our recommendations, the candidate's background, level of experience, connection to the District of Columbia, record of public service, a demonstrated commitment to the equality of all litigants, and an attention to women's needs and concerns.

We evaluate each candidate for endorsement by reviewing his or her resume and other supporting documentation, and discussing the candidate's skills and character with references. We ask each person contacted specific questions regarding the candidate's qualifications, integrity, temperament, experience, and commitment to the concepts of equal opportunity and equal justice under law.

Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia

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The WBA previously endorsed Ms. Millett for the U.S. Court of Appeals in April 2009. Upon receiving her new application, we updated our research and spoke to Ms. Millett's legal peers. This process has once again led us to the conclusion that Ms. Millett is one of the most highly experienced and qualified appellate advocates in the United States. She graduated from Harvard Law School *magna cum laude* and clerked for Judge Thomas Tang of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the first Asian-American court of appeals judge in the United States.

In her practice, she has argued almost three dozen appellate cases across the country, including in the District of Columbia Circuit. She has also argued 32 cases in the U.S. Supreme Court and has briefed scores of cases in that court. Through her work, important judicial victories have been obtained upholding the constitutionality of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, and sex-offender registries; enforcing anti-discrimination laws; providing police with the tools to locate missing children; and protecting the privacy rights of grieving family members.

Ms. Millett's exceptional talent and skill have been widely recognized. She was awarded the Justice Department's Distinguished Service Award – one of the Department's most prestigious awards – for representing the interests of the United States before the Supreme Court. She has also been inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, a Board Member of the Dwight D. Opperman Institute of Judicial Administration, a Board Member of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, a Judicial Fellows Commissioner, a member of the Board of the Supreme Court Historical Society, and a member of the Outside Advisory Board for the Supreme Court Institute.

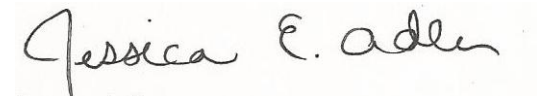
Currently, as head of Akin Gump's Supreme Court Practice and co-chair of the Appellate Practice Group, she is frequently consulted to provide expert commentary on appellate advocacy and Supreme Court practice and speaks regularly to law students.

Importantly, Ms. Millett has devoted much of her career to serving the public and, during her time in the Justice Department, fought hard to sustain the constitutionality and enforceability of important civil rights legislation like the Family and Medical Leave Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. In private practice, she has taken on multiple *pro bono* projects, representing and providing counsel to the indigent, civil rights plaintiffs, and others who would otherwise lack effective access to the appellate process. She has also been actively involved in serving her community, working as a literary tutor in Washington, DC and combating homelessness and poverty in Northern Virginia for years.

In short, in the view of the Women's Bar Association, Ms. Millett's wide-ranging appellate experience, devotion to the public interest, proven commitment to ensuring equal access to justice and the judicial system, and understanding of the importance of a judicial system that respects the diversity of Americans and their life experience make her an exceptional candidate for the federal bench.

Ms. Millett has shown a sustained dedication to the ideals of the WBA and we commend her excellent work in furtherance of these ideals. For this and the reasons stated above, the WBA is proud to support Ms. Millett's nomination and encourages the Senate to take prompt action to confirm her to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. If you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please contact me at 202-898-0055 or at president@wbadc.org.

Sincerely,



Jessica E. Adler
President

cc: Patricia A. Millett, Esq.
Co-Chairs, WBA Judicial and Executive Endorsement Committee:
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Ms. Rachel Levinson Waldman
Ms. Elizabeth Marvin
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