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New York Office
 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1901
 New York, NY 10115
 Tel 212 645 4048
 Fax 212 645 7466
 Email action@ncjw.org

Washington Office
 1707 L Street, NW Suite 950
 Washington, DC 20036-4206
 Tel 202 296 2588
 Fax 202 331 7792
 Email action@ncjwdc.org

Israel Office
 NCJW Research Institute for
 Innovation in Education, Room 267
 Hebrew University, Mt. Scopus
 Jerusalem, Israel 91905
 Tel 972 2 5882 208
 Fax 972 2 5813 264
 Email ncjwisrael@gmail.com

Web www.ncjw.org

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
 United States Senate
 S230 US Capitol
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
 United States Senate
 S221 US Capitol
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
 Senate Committee on the Judiciary
 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
 Senate Committee on the Judiciary
 152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Chairman Grassley, and Ranking Member Feinstein:

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) writes to express its strong opposition to the nomination of Stephen S. Schwartz to the US Court of Federal Claims. Schwartz has worked to uphold voter suppression in North Carolina, fight against immigrant rights in Florida, and resist transgender rights in Virginia. Currently, he is defending the state of Louisiana against constitutional challenges to seven bills that severely restrict access to abortion care enacted in 2016 by the state legislature. He also represents Louisiana’s efforts to restrict women’s access to abortion care by requiring physicians to have admitting privileges at a local hospital if they perform abortions, even though the Supreme Court has already struck down a similar Texas law.

At his Senate Judiciary Committee hearing, Schwartz refused to discuss the ideological bent of his career. Indeed, his alliance with the right would severely undermine the court’s appearance of neutrality. Until last year, Schwartz worked at the far-right Cause of Action Institute, a nonprofit legal advocacy group funded by the Koch brothers.

Notably, Schwartz has no experience practicing before the Court of Claims. Given the unique nature of this court, having practiced before it should at least be a baseline for consideration. This career opponent of civil rights lacks the requisite experience to be elevated to the federal bench. While his term would be set at 15 years, a seat on that court could be a stepping stone to a lifetime appointment. Accordingly, we strongly **urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to vote against his confirmation** to the Court of Federal Claims.

Sincerely,



Nancy K. Kaufman
 CEO, National Council of Jewish Women

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