

PLUNKETT  COONEY

May 8, 2017

Debbie Stabenow  
731 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-2204

Re: Justice Joan Larsen

Dear Senator Stabenow:

I am writing to urge you to support Justice Joan Larsen's confirmation as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. I write to you as a constituent, past campaign contributor, and appellate lawyer in Michigan. I have appeared in over 100 appeals before the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, and I know how important a smart, knowledgeable, and fair-minded jurist is to the administration of justice in our judiciary. My clients include individuals, local governments, small businesses such as gas station owners in the local community or local car dealerships, and large global businesses, such as national tire manufacturers. I have represented my clients when they were litigating as plaintiffs and defendants. So it is not surprising that what I most look for in an appellate judge is a willingness to grapple deeply with the legal and factual issues presented in an appeal and to decide them in a fair and balanced way. Good judging requires focus, intelligence, balance, humility, and a commitment to the notion of justice under the rule of law. Justice Larsen is an exceptional person and jurist and has earned my strongest support.

I have appeared before the Michigan Supreme Court on several occasions since Justice Larsen was appointed as a member of that Court. And I can attest to her exceptional performance on that Court. She is always well-prepared, courteous to the advocates coming before the Court, and thoughtful in her consideration of the issues presented. Justice Larsen's questions during oral argument reflect a keen insight into the legal issues before the Court. Often, they lead the discussion to the heart of the matter. Moreover, our Court, in recent times, has been marked by a renewed collegiality, often issuing decisions embraced by all justices or five or six of the seven currently sitting. This consensus by the justices evidences Justice Larsen's willingness to call them as she sees them and in a non-ideological or politically-motivated manner.

My experience with Justice Larsen is not surprising in light of her history and impressive credentials. She graduated from law school with an impressive record, clerked for Judge David Sentelle of the D.C. Circuit Court, and then for Justice Scalia on the Supreme Court. Her background includes private practice, government service, and academic work as a professor at the University of Michigan. She is well-qualified for the position of judge

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on the Sixth Circuit, and knowledgeable about many of the legal issues likely to come before her on that court.

Finally, let me say that Justice Larsen has earned my highest praise as a jurist. I hope that you will support her confirmation to the Sixth Circuit.

Sincerely,

PLUNKETT COONEY



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