

June 5, 2017

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

We are graduates of Notre Dame Law School and former students of Professor Amy Coney Barrett, whom President Trump recently nominated for a seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. We write to urge the United States Senate to confirm Professor Barrett.

Our backgrounds and life experiences are varied and diverse. Our legal practices are as varied as the profession itself. Some of us engage in private practice, others in public-interest work, and still others in government service. A number of us served as law clerks to federal judges. Our religious, cultural, and political views span a wide spectrum. Despite the many and genuine differences among us, we are united in our conviction that Professor Barrett would make an exceptional federal judge. Our support is driven not by politics but by a belief that Professor Barrett is supremely qualified.

Professor Barrett's credentials are impeccable. She attended Rhodes College, where she graduated *magna cum laude*, and then earned her law degree from Notre Dame, *summa cum laude*. After law school, Professor Barrett clerked for Judge Laurence H. Silberman of the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and for the late-Justice Antonin Scalia of the United States Supreme Court. After practicing law in Washington, D.C., Professor Barrett joined the Notre Dame Law School faculty in 2002. Her academic work has been published in leading law journals and she was appointed by the Chief Justice to the Advisory Committee for the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, on which she served from 2010 through 2016.

It is at Notre Dame Law School that we came to know—and love—Professor Barrett. In her fifteen years teaching at Notre Dame, Professor Barrett has shaped countless students both inside and outside of the classroom. Her teaching is remarkable, engaging, challenging, and unbiased. Her students universally recognize her brilliance as a legal thinker. In the classroom, Professor Barrett is demanding. Her students learn that lawyers have an unyielding obligation to think deeply and well about the law. And they see that Professor Barrett cares deeply about the

rule of law as the foundation of our constitutional system. She has an unusual ability to instill that same love of the law in each of us.

Outside the classroom, Professor Barrett has served as a valuable and wise professional and personal mentor to students navigating law school and the professional world. She has inspired her students through her personal generosity and care. Her office door is always open, and her students often remark upon her acts of kindness, both large and small. In our experience, Professor Barrett treats every person—whether a student, staff member, or faculty member—with equal respect and concern. Professor Barrett’s skills and generosity in and outside the classroom culminated in her selection as “Distinguished Professor of the Year” by graduating classes on two separate occasions.

Outside the law school, Professor Barrett continues to inspire us, especially in how effectively to balance our personal lives and work. Despite a heavy teaching load and significant scholarly activities, Professor Barrett and her husband, Jesse, are raising seven children—a remarkable feat in itself. Professor Barrett’s dedication as a spouse and mother alongside her stellar teaching and scholarship represents the epitome of Notre Dame Law School’s challenge for its graduates to be “a different kind of lawyer.”

We are convinced that Professor Barrett will bring to the federal bench the same intelligence, fairness, decency, generosity, and hard work she has demonstrated at Notre Dame Law School. She will treat each litigant with respect and care, conscious of the reality that judicial decisions greatly affect the lives of those before the court. And she will apply the law faithfully and impartially. In short, we have no doubt that Professor Amy Barrett will be a wonderful addition to the federal judiciary.

For all these reasons, we urge the Senate to confirm Professor Barrett to the Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Sincerely,

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Elizabeth L. Adams

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Erik Adams

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Zachary J. Adams

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Christopher P. Aemisegger

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Bill Anaya

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F. Dean Armstrong

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George Ball

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Jesse Barrett*

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Kathryn Meacham Scotti
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Mark J. Sedor
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Olaniyi Solebo*
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Matthew K. Treadwell
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cc: Senator Joe Donnelly
Senator Todd Young

* Designates Indiana resident