

Gary Clinton
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July 20, 2017

The Honorable Charles Grassley, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Diane Feinstein, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Stephanos Bibas to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein

My perspective on Stephanos Bibas may be unique, as it is based on my role as Dean of Students at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, a position I held for 25 years until my retirement in late 2015. Stephanos was a colleague, a sometimes advisor, and a friend. In the 12 years I have known him it has been my pleasure to see him mature as a teacher and as a person. He is exceptionally smart, he is very focused, and he is deeply committed to the law. Others will speak to those qualities, I am sure. But I write to speak about his engagement with students and colleagues.

Stephanos respects people. He respects discussion. He respects the exchange of ideas. Though faculty, like many busy professionals, sometimes find themselves overwhelmed by the varieties of responsibilities they bear, it was my experience that Stephanos always found time for engagement with students from all perspectives, inside and outside the classroom. He was an enthusiastic supporter of student activities, and he played no favorites. I have never seen any indication of bias or favoritism of any sort.

Stephanos has, of course, a point of view. Nonetheless, I have not experienced that as coming from a closed mind. Rather, he enjoys the give and take of discussion, and he is not dismissive of other perspectives. He is very fair, considerate, and encouraging. When students experienced problems at the law school, I found him to be supportive and compassionate. His commitment to, and engagement with, students and to discussion have been without bias of any sort.

On numerous instances he supported the progressive stances that I took as one of the law school's senior administrators as they related to dealing with students experiencing personal or academic problems and in need of support.

And though this may be too personal an observation, as gay men, my husband and I have always found Stephanos to be warmly supportive of our relationship and our marriage. On several occasions Stephanos and I have spoken about evolving LGBT history and issues. These are issues with which he has shown no personal or academic discomfort.

Very truly yours,

Gary Clinton
Dean of Students (Retired)
University of Pennsylvania Law School