

**Faegre Baker Daniels LLP**2200 Wells Fargo Center ▼ 90 South Seventh Street  
Minneapolis ▼ Minnesota 55402-3901**Phone +1 612 766 7000****Fax +1 612 766 1600**

June 8, 2017

The Honorable Senator Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senate  
1200 Washington Avenue South, #250  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

The Honorable Senator Al Franken  
United States Senate  
60 Plato Boulevard, #220  
St. Paul, MN 55107

The Honorable Senator Chuck Grassley  
United States Senate  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Senator Diane Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Senator Mitch McConnell  
United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Senator Chuck Schumer  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Re: Nomination of Justice David Stras to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals**

Dear Senators:

In 2009, our law firm was fortunate to welcome a bright University of Minnesota law professor named David Stras as counsel to our firm. Then-Professor Stras worked primarily with lawyers on our Appellate Practice team, but he assisted lawyers in other litigation and non-litigation projects as well, helping them with legal analysis and strategy in complex cases.

We knew that Justice Stras had a great intellect, and would be an asset to our firm in that regard. And his devotion to the law was on full display at all times. But we quickly learned that he was more than just a “big brain,” he was a great colleague as well. He never talked down to people, and never came off as an “ivory-tower” academic. There was never any hint that he felt himself superior to anyone. He listened to others’ views, and worked to find an approach to legal problems that was both effective and acceptable to everyone on the team. He

was collegial and collaborative. He was a mentor to younger lawyers (and some older ones as well). Our lawyers greatly enjoyed working with him.

While Justice Stras's devotion to the law was on full display throughout his time with us, one thing that was not on display was politics or partisanship. We came to know Justice Stras not as a conservative or a Republican, but as an eminently talented lawyer who strove to discover what the law was, and how our clients could best function within the law.

We were, of course, a little disappointed when Justice Stras left us in mid-2010 to join the Supreme Court of Minnesota, but those of us who have appeared before him since then in his role as Justice have found the same person whom we got to know during his time with our firm: smart, rigorous, cordial, impartial, and committed to the law without politics or partisanship. Win or lose, we have never doubted for a minute that he reached his decisions based on his well-considered view of the law, and not personal, political, or ideological considerations.

The lawyers whose names appear at the bottom of this letter span the political spectrum, from Democrat to Republican, liberal to conservative. We differ in our political views, but we are united in our support of Justice Stras's nomination to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. He has all of the attributes of an excellent judge: intelligent, hard-working, collegial, respectful of others, and deeply committed to the impartial rule of law in our country. We respectfully urge the Judiciary Committee and the Senate to confirm Justice Stras's nomination to the Eighth Circuit. We are confident that he will be an asset to the federal judiciary, and a judge whom you will be proud to have confirmed.

Sincerely,

Andrew G. Humphrey – Chair Emeritus

Emily R. Bodtke

John P. Borger

Elsa M. Bullard

Kerry L. Bundy

William R. Busch

Beth E. Carlson

Martin S. Chester

Steven J. Conley

Chad Drown

Delmar R. Ehrich

Deborah A. Ellingboe

Bruce M. Engler

Lauren J. Frank

Jack M. Fribley

Zachary W. Froelich

John A. Haveman

Erin L. Hoffman

Bruce Jones

Christine R.M. Kain

Nicole J. Leimer

Steven G. Lentz

Peter C. Magnuson

David R. Merritt

Andrew B. Murphy

Joseph M. Price

Keith P. Radtke

Robert L. Schnell

Michael A. Stanchfield

Aaron D. Van Oort

James L. Volling

Charles F. Webber

Wendy J. Wildung

Joseph M. Winebrenner

Tyler A. Young