

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Chairman, Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

May 11, 2017

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

We write to express our support for Justice David Stras's nomination for a position on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. All of us came to know David during our tenure as law clerks at the Supreme Court of the United States during the October 2002 Term. Our ranks include partners at prominent law firms, professors at leading law schools, and government officials from both Democratic and Republican administrations. Many of us routinely practice before the federal appellate courts. We are Democrats, independents, and Republicans, and while we have differing views on nearly every political issue, including the policies of this presidential administration, we are united in our support for David's confirmation.

David graduated from University of Kansas Law School in 1999, and served as a law clerk for Melvin Brunetti of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and J. Michael Luttig of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. He then served as a law clerk to Justice Clarence Thomas of the Supreme Court of the United States. From 2004 to 2010, David was a law professor at the University of Minnesota Law School, where he served as co-director of the Institute of Politics. In 2010, David was appointed an Associate Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court and he was elected to a full six-year term in 2012. He has served with distinction in all of these positions.

Although David's stellar qualifications speak for themselves, we can attest to his legal acumen, work ethic, and judgment. Perhaps more important, we can attest to David's collegiality and temperament. Our Supreme Court term involved many difficult and contentious cases. Yet even when we disagreed, David treated us with the utmost respect and made lasting friendships across the aisle. We are confident that he will bring these same qualities to his service on the Eighth Circuit.

In short, Justice David Stras is an exemplary nominee, and we urge the Senate to approve his nomination.

Sincerely,

Priya Aiyar
Leah Brannon
Andy DeVooght
Victoria Dorfman
Mark C. Fleming
John M. Golden
Emily Johnson Henn
Toby J. Heytens
Allyson N. Ho
Derek T. Ho
Robert K. Hur
Sarah Levine
Brian R. Matsui
Troy A. McKenzie
Trevor W. Morrison
Justin A. Nelson
Maritza U.B. Okata
John C. O'Quinn
Eric R. Olson
Elizabeth G. Porter
Cristina Rodriguez
Gil Seinfeld
Anne K. Small
Karl R. Thompson
Igor V. Timofeyev
Emin Toro
Kathryn A. Watts
Amy J. Wildermuth
Michael F. Williams¹

¹ Please note that professional ethics rules prevented certain members of our clerkship class from signing this letter.