

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

We write in support of the nomination of Alison J. Nathan to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. Each of us served as a law clerk to a member of the Supreme Court of the United States during the 2001-2002 Term, when Ms. Nathan served as a law clerk to Associate Justice John Paul Stevens.

Although our professional paths have taken us in varied directions, and although we hold a wide range of political and jurisprudential views, all of us believe that Ms. Nathan has the ability, character, and temperament to be an excellent federal district court judge. During our clerkship year, Ms. Nathan embodied the very sort of open-minded rigor that is characteristic of the finest jurists. She approached every case with the greatest of care, and her work ethic was nothing short of enviable. In addition, she did her work in a collaborative and thoughtful manner. She always sought out the ideas and viewpoints of others. Indeed, no matter how important or controversial the case, Ms. Nathan always interacted with law clerks from other Chambers in a sincere, calm, and constructive manner. Ms. Nathan did her work with a smile, and her enthusiasm was contagious. We found these things to be true not only in the substantive work of the clerkship, but also in less formal interactions with other clerks, the Justices, and the staff of the Court. Ms. Nathan was someone known for her genuineness. In short, Ms. Nathan was an important part of the intellectual and social “glue” that brought together clerks from the Chambers of all of the Justices during our Term at the Court.

Ms. Nathan’s work since her clerkship confirms that she has the experience, skills, and demeanor well-suited for the bench. She has worked in demanding legal environments: practicing at a large corporate law firm, teaching law students, advising the President, and serving as a senior lawyer in the office of a state attorney general. The breadth of experience she has gained during the course of her career will serve her well on the federal bench. Many of us have kept in touch with Ms. Nathan over the years since clerking, and we can attest that, throughout all of this time, she has continued to exhibit the intellectual curiosity and level-headedness that defined her work during our clerkship year. We are happy to report that she is the same thoughtful person whom we all got to know in our year together at the Supreme Court. She still relates easily to people from all walks of life and from all political persuasions.

We have all known Ms. Nathan for at least a decade now, and we all believe that she has the necessary qualifications and characteristics to make an exemplary federal district judge. If confirmed, we are confident that Ms. Nathan will listen carefully to all those who come before her, and that she will make thoughtful judgments based on the law. We recommend her for this position without hesitation and without reservation.

Respectfully submitted,

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