

January 5, 2022

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United State Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We write to express our strong support for the nomination of Beth Ann Williams to be a Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board (PCLOB). As current and former career employees of the Department of Justice (DOJ) who worked with Ms. Williams when she served as Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Policy (OLP), we can state unequivocally that she is highly qualified for membership on the PCLOB.

Ms. Williams has had a distinguished career. She graduated from Harvard College, *magna cum laude*, in 2001 and from Harvard Law School in 2004. After law school, she clerked for Judge Richard Wesley on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. She also worked as a counsel on the Senate Judiciary Committee during the confirmation processes for Chief Justice John Roberts and Associate Justice Samuel Alito. In 2006, Ms. Williams joined the firm of Kirkland & Ellis and was made a partner in 2010. At Kirkland, she maintained an active litigation practice that included extensive pro bono work. For example, she represented a New York State prison inmate who was held in solitary confinement for more than 20 years in a challenge to those conditions. For this and other work the firm recognized her with its pro bono service award six years in a row. She also served on the firm's Diversity Committee and Women's Leadership Initiative. Ms. Williams was then nominated for Assistant Attorney General in 2017 and confirmed by the Senate in a voice vote. At OLP, she led DOJ efforts to confirm federal judges and promote regulatory reform, and she helped develop DOJ and inter-agency policies on cutting-edge issues such as unmanned aircraft systems and cryptocurrencies.

Throughout her career, Ms. Williams has displayed an admirable ability to work in a collegial manner on difficult issues. We can attest from our working relationships with Ms. Williams that she was unfailingly respectful of our opinions as career employees of the Department of Justice. She always had an open mind and made decisions in a fair, transparent, and thoughtful manner. Furthermore, at every turn, her only consideration was how best to advance good governance on behalf of the United States and its values. She maintained her integrity and that of the Office of Legal Policy by the force of her principles and strength of her character.

Ms. Williams was also a warm and caring boss, especially during the COVID pandemic. She insisted that employees prioritize their health and that of their families and ensured that she and other managers in the Office of Legal Policy personally communicated with all office personnel to maintain morale during the stressful early months of the pandemic.

All who worked with Ms. Williams at DOJ respect her and submit to the Committee that she would be an exceptional member of the PCLOB.

Sincerely,

Larry Rothenberg
Carl Wasserman
Kevin Jinks
Ileana Ciobanu
David Karp
Ann Loughlin
Matrina Matthews
Leroy Jackson
Cleo White
Eric Gormsen
Alessandra Serano
Anthony Shults
William Scharf
R. Trent McCotter
Dan Mauler
Jason Weida
Alexander P. Robbins
Douglas Rathbun
Connie Wu
Alissa Kempler
Jeff Beelaert
Lindsay K. Eyler
Adam Braverman
Sean Day
Alice LaCour
Alexander K. Haas