

September 9, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Room S-221, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Room S-230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

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

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We have been honored to serve as law clerks to Justice Beth Robinson on the Vermont Supreme Court. Although we are of varied backgrounds and professional experiences, we are unanimous in our unequivocal support for Justice Robinson's confirmation as a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Justice Robinson's intellect, experience, integrity, and temperament make her eminently qualified to serve on the Second Circuit bench.

Justice Robinson has a distinguished career as a lawyer and jurist. After clerking for Judge David B. Sentelle on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, Justice Robinson practiced law for 18 years. In addition to her civil practice, where she represented Vermonters in employment law, workers' compensation, contracts, family law, and other areas, she was co-counsel for the plaintiffs in the historic *Baker v. State of Vermont* case and successfully led the Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force. Justice Robinson served as counsel to Governor Peter Shumlin before joining Vermont's highest state court in 2011.

As law clerks to Justice Robinson, we witnessed firsthand her brilliant intellect, unparalleled work ethic, and fidelity to the rule of law. Justice Robinson prepared thoughtfully for every case. She carefully considered each brief, petition, and record that came before her. Her diligence was readily apparent in her questioning during oral arguments and in her discussions with fellow justices and law clerks. Justice Robinson's command of both law and facts is evident in her meticulously written opinions and orders. In addition to being thorough and legally sound, Justice Robinson takes care to ensure that her decisions are clear, so the parties and the public can fully understand both the decision and the reasons for it.

During her decade on the state supreme court, Justice Robinson has also been a collegial jurist, working closely with fellow justices of varying views. In several areas, she has helped forge consensus among the Court and bring clarity to the law. When necessary, she has written clear, compelling dissents and concurrences. Like great jurists throughout our nation's history, Justice Robinson's opinions have combined skillful analysis of legal text; an appreciation of history; and concern for the legal and practical impact of opinions on litigants, the lower courts, and the public.

Justice Robinson is universally respected for her integrity, fair-mindedness, impartiality, and judicial temperament. Her varied experiences have brought her in contact with Americans from all walks of life. She always treats parties, counsel, and fellow justices with dignity and respect. As a Vermont Supreme Court justice, she has played a leading role in state court administration, working to substantially increase the accessibility of state courts to all Vermonters and helping to lead the Vermont judiciary through the COVID-19 crisis. We have no doubt that Justice Robinson would fulfill the federal judicial oath to "administer justice without respect to persons, and do equal right to the poor and to the rich."

Finally, on a personal note, each of us can attest to Justice Robinson's kindness. She has a warm sense of humor, is remarkably humble, and is a wonderful mentor. In hours of discussion, Justice Robinson was always willing to share experiences from her career or to help us analyze tricky issues. She is respectful of clerks' time and workloads, creating an office culture that is safe and welcoming to clerks and other staff. During our clerkships, Justice Robinson and her wife, Dr. Kym Boyman, invited us into their home. After we left her chambers, Justice Robinson continued to keep in touch. She celebrated our marriages, shared in the joy of our children's births, and offered wise advice at turning points in our careers. Through her powerful example, each of us learned an immense amount—not only about the law, but also about how to navigate our careers and lives with judgment, compassion, and integrity.

In sum, Justice Robinson is a superb and exceptionally well-qualified nominee. We unconditionally support her nomination to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and urge the Senate to speedily confirm her.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Benjamin L. Cavaturo
Benjamin L. Cavaturo

s/ Briana T. Hauser
Briana T. Hauser

s/ Jessica Portmess
Jessica Portmess

s/ Haley Barton
Haley Barton

s/ Steph Hoffman
Steph Hoffman

s/ Andrew Rome
Andrew Rome

s/ Kienan Christianson
Kienan Christianson

s/ Erik Nielsen
Erik Nielsen

s/ Rachel Smith
Rachel Smith

s/ Elise Grifka Wander
Elise Grifka Wander