

February 19, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Letter in Support of the Honorable Merrick Garland

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

We write in strong support of the nomination of the Honorable Merrick Garland to serve as the 86th Attorney General of the United States Department of Justice.

We are former federal judges, appointed by both Republican and Democratic Presidents. Many of us have also served within the United States Department of Justice as trial attorneys and in supervisory roles. Like Judge Garland, we served as judicial officers with humility and independence. We all took the same oath to uphold the Constitution and the rule of law.

The Attorney General of the United States also swears to “support and defend” the Constitution. We believe, based upon Judge Garland’s character, his impeccable judicial service, and his distinguished service to the United States as a federal prosecutor and senior Justice Department official, that he will be an outstanding Attorney General.

Judge Garland clerked for two of President Eisenhower’s appointees: Judge Henry Friendly of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, and Supreme Court Justice William Brennan. While serving in the Justice Department, Judge Garland oversaw some of the most significant and consequential prosecutions of our time, including the federal response to the Oklahoma City bombing. Judge Garland approaches the law with an unwavering commitment to fairness and justice. Those of us who have

worked directly with Judge Garland have seen firsthand his strong moral compass and abiding integrity.

These values were on display when he was introduced by then President-elect Biden on January 7, 2021, as his nominee for Attorney General. Judge Garland spoke movingly of his commitment to defend the norms and principles that have always guided the Justice Department's mission to conduct independent investigations without fear or favor. He pledged to lead the Department with independence and pursue equal justice for all. Moreover, these values, which are the mainstay of the Justice Department, are not mere platitudes; they are at the core of Judge Garland's life and character.

The rule of law serves as the bedrock of our democracy, and has long been the envy of countries all over the world. Our institutions, particularly the Judiciary and the United States Department of Justice, are foundational to upholding the rule of law. We believe that Judge Garland's leadership of the Department of Justice will ensure that the Department can and will effectively carry out its mission. We urge the Senate to confirm Judge Garland as swiftly as possible.

Yours truly,

The Honorable Timothy K. Lewis (Ret.)

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

1992-1999

U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania

1991-1992

The Honorable Paul G. Cassell (Reg.)

U.S. District Court for the District of Utah

2002-2007

The Honorable Shira A. Scheindlin (Ret.)

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York

1994-2016

The Honorable Jeremy D. Fogel (Ret.)

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California

1998-2018

The Honorable Nancy Gertner (Ret.)

U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts
1994-2011

The Honorable Michael Chertoff (Ret.)

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
2003-2005

The Honorable John Gleeson (Ret.)

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York
1994-2016

The Honorable Faith S. Hochberg (Ret.)

U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey
1999-2015

The Honorable Ruben Castillo (Ret.)

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
1994-2019

The Honorable Mark W. Bennett (Ret.)

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa
1994-2019

The Honorable Stephen G. Larson (Ret.)

U.S. District Court for the Central District of California
2006-2009

The Honorable Christopher F. Droney (Ret.)

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
2011-2019
U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut
1997-2011

The Honorable John S. Martin Jr. (Ret.)

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York
1990-2003

The Honorable Thomas Vanaskie (Ret.)

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

2010-2018

U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania

1994-2010

The Honorable Katherine B. Forrest (Fmr.)

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York

2011-2018

The Honorable Michael W. McConnell (Reg.)

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit

2002-2009

The Honorable Robert J. Cindrich (Ret.)

U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania

1994-2004

The Honorable John D. Tinder (Ret.)

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

2007-2015

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana

1987-2007

The Honorable Stephen M. Orlofsky (Ret.)

U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey

1996-2003

The Honorable Layn R. Phillips (Fmr.)

U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma

1987-1991

The Honorable F. A. Little, Jr. (Ret.)

U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana

1984-2006

The Honorable Stephen C. Robinson (Ret.)

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York

2003-2010

The Honorable Deanell R. Tacha (Ret.)

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit

1986-2011

The Honorable Thelton Henderson (Ret.)

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California

1980-2017

The Honorable James Holderman (Ret.)

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

1985-2015

The Honorable Wayne Andersen (Ret.)

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

1991-2010

The Honorable D. Lowell Jensen (Ret.)

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California

1986-2014

The Honorable Barbara S. Jones (Ret.)

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York

1995-2013

The Honorable Ann Claire Williams (Ret.)

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

1999-2017

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

1985-1999

The Honorable A. Howard Matz (Ret.)

U.S. District Court for the Central District of California

1998-2013

The Honorable Henry H. Kennedy, Jr. (Ret.)

U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia

1997-2011

The Honorable David Folsom (Ret.)

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas
1995-2012

The Honorable Stanwood R. Duval Jr. (Ret.)

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana
1994-2017

The Honorable Bruce D. Black (Ret.)

U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico
1995-2017

The Honorable T. John Ward (Ret.)

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas
1999-2011

The Honorable Robert H. Henry (Ret.)

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
1994-2010

The Honorable Royal Furgeson (Ret.)

U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas
1994-2013

The Honorable Vaughn R. Walker (Ret.)

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California
1989-2011

The Honorable Robert O'Connor, Jr. (Fmr.)

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas
1975-1985

The Honorable Robert C. Bonner (Fmr.)

U.S. District Court for the Central District of California
1989-1990

The Honorable H. Lee Sarokin (Ret.)

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

1994-1996

United States District Court for the District of New Jersey

1979-1994

The Honorable Marilyn Hall Patel (Ret.)

United States District Court for the Northern District of California

1980-2012

The Honorable David H. Coar (Ret.)

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

1994-2010

The Honorable Gary A. Feess (Ret.)

U.S. District Court for the Central District of California

1999-2014

The Honorable Abraham D. Sofaer (Reg.)

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York

1979-1985

The Honorable Andre M. Davis (Ret.)

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

2009-2017

U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland

1995-2009

The Honorable Joel A. Pisano (Ret.)

U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey

2000-2015

The Honorable Alexander Williams, Jr. (Ret.)

U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland

1994-2014

The Honorable Ralph G. Thompson (Ret.)

U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma

1975-2007

The Honorable William G. Bassler (Ret.)
U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey
1991-2006

The Honorable David F. Levi (Reg.)
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California
1990-2007

The Honorable Dennis M. Cavanaugh (Ret.)
U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey
2000-2014

The Honorable Héctor M. Laffittee (Ret.)
U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico
1983-2005

The Honorable William Webster (Reg.)
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
1973-1978
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri
1970-1973
Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation
1978-1987
Director of the Central Intelligence Agency
1987-1991

The Honorable Margaret M. Morrow (Ret.)
U.S. District Court for the Central District of California
1998-2006

The Honorable Arthur J. Gajarsa (Ret.)
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
1997-2012

The Honorable Lawrence F. Stengel (Ret.)
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
2004-2018

The Honorable William W. Wilkins (Ret.)

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

1986-2007

U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina

1981-1986

The Honorable Richard J. Holwell (Reg.)

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York

2003-2012

The Honorable Kenneth W. Starr (Ret.)

U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit

1983-1989

U.S. Solicitor General

1989-1993

The Honorable Thomas B. Griffith (Ret.)

U. S. Court of Appeals for the D. C. Circuit

2005 - 2020