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VIA EMAIL (phillip brest@judiciary-dem.senate.gov; brendan chestnut@judiciary-rep.senate.gov)

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Nomination of Judge J. Michelle Childs to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

With pleasure, I am writing to express enthusiastic support for the appointment of Judge J. Michelle Childs to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

This enthusiasm is based upon my experience working with Judge Childs when I was the Director of the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR) and Judge Childs served as LLR's Deputy Director for the Division of Labor from 2000-2002. The division which Judge Childs led oversaw South Carolina's then 100,000 workplaces under a variety of employment laws and programs including OSHA, OSHA voluntary safety programs, payment of wages, child labor, migrant labor, mediation of disputes between businesses and unions, and oversight of elevators and amusement rides.

When recruiting Judge Childs for this position, I knew she would do an outstanding job. What I did not know was just how outstanding her performance would be. Judge Childs exceeded by far every bar, standard and expectation. Quickly, I learned this is her standard. I was immediately struck by Judge Childs' immense thoroughness and attention to detail as she carefully analyzed matters before her with unmatched energy and professionalism. I believe these qualities stem from her utmost intelligence and unquestioned integrity. Judge Childs seeks the truth in all that she does.

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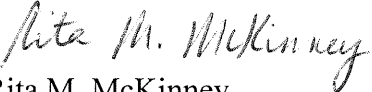
Judge Childs approached each workplace incident, case, and issue with an openness to all viewpoints and without any preconceived notion of an end result. Her goal was to reach impartial, honest and very carefully considered outcomes based upon the law and facts. Judge Childs led her division during difficult state budget cuts, all while increasing and improving services to the public. For example, she instituted free OSHA training by telephone conferences with then-innovative technology. She helped initiate a non-English speaking task force to make LLR's services more accessible to non-English speaking workers. During her last year, the OSHA consultants saved the State's businesses about \$4.4 million in OSHA fines through voluntary site visits and correction of identified hazards. Under her watch, the number of workplace injuries in South Carolina dropped to a then record low. These are only a few of the many achievements of her division during the short two years she led it. As Deputy Director, Judge Childs also served on the leadership team of LLR where her wise input was highly valued by other division leaders.

Judge Childs' experience at LLR provided her with a deep understanding of the inside workings of organizations, institutions and businesses and the practicalities they face on a daily basis. This insight has and will continue to serve her well in the judiciary.

A word often used to describe Judge Childs is "bright". This word describes her not just because of her sharp mind, keen intellect and proven legal skills, but also because she radiates professionalism, energy, warmth, respect for others and a deep commitment to finding truthful, thoughtfully considered and thoroughly researched decisions to matters before her. I believe she will be an excellent addition to the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

Thank you for considering my comments. I am honored to submit this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like additional information or if you have questions.

Sincerely,


Rita M. McKinney
Retired Partner

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