



The Supreme Court of South Carolina

JEAN HOEFER TOAL
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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 J. Michelle Childs, to the District of Columbia Circuit

Dear Senators Durbin and Grassley,

Thank you for your kindness in receiving this letter to you as chairman and as ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary of the United States Senate. The undersigned served as an Associate Justice of the SC Supreme Court for 12 years and as its Chief Justice for 15 years. In these capacities, I had many opportunities to assess the professional abilities and personal integrity of J. Michelle Childs as a lawyer appearing before my court, as a trial court judge under my direct supervision and as valued friend. In private practice, she submitted briefs of fine scholarship and keen analysis. As a trial judge, she was so exceptionally bright, hardworking and effective that I regularly appointed her to some of the most complex civil and criminal trial matters. She performed at the highest level.

Early in my service as Chief, I created a specialized Business Court Docket to provide "Beginning to End" management of complex business disputes. I designated three trial judges to handle business court cases in addition to their regular court docket. J Michelle Childs was one of my business court Judges. She quickly became a respected leader of the national business court judges' organizations.

Beginning in 2006, I regularly assigned Judge Childs to sit with the SC Supreme Court as an Acting Associate Justice when necessitated. She performed brilliantly, always prepared and unfailingly respectful and engaged with the attorneys and our court.

Since 2010, when Judge Childs left state judicial service to accept an appointment as a Federal District Judge, I have followed her performance with great interest and pride. She has continued to do the hard-intellectual work it takes to be one of the most admired judges in our state. I am in regular contact with my judicial colleagues and lawyers through the county. As her national reputation has grown, J. Michelle Childs is widely regarded as one of the top tier trial judges in the country. Her integrity and intelligence and her even tempered nature make her an outstanding candidate for an appointment to the DC Circuit.

Please accept my highest regards.

Sincerely

Jean H Toal