



May 11, 2017

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Amy Coney Barrett, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

Amy Coney Barrett will be an exceptional federal judge. As fellow faculty and colleagues at Notre Dame Law School, we have worked closely with Amy and consequently have a firm basis on which to base that judgment. As a scholarly community, we have a wide range of political views, as well as commitments to different approaches to judicial methodology and judicial craft. We are united, however, in our judgment about Amy. She is a brilliant teacher and scholar, and a warm and generous colleague. She possesses in abundance all of the other qualities that shape extraordinary jurists: discipline, intellect, wisdom, impeccable temperament, and above all, fundamental decency and humanity. Indeed, it is a testament to Amy's fitness for this office that every full-time member of our faculty has signed this letter.

As a teacher, Amy is relentlessly effective and genuinely inspirational. She has extraordinary presence. She is quick and articulate. Her legal analysis is piercing, and she requires her students to think hard and well. In the classroom she has a single agenda: to develop her students' capacities to analyze complex legal problems critically. Amy demands their best, and they respect her for it. Our students seek out her classes and counsel. Her two Distinguished Professor of the Year awards are but a small reflection of our students' esteem for how Amy conducts herself.

Amy's unique ability to address hard problems in clear language is a quality that great judges possess. That ability is equally on display in her scholarship. Amy has long been an intellectual leader on our faculty. She is creative and insightful, but careful never to push an argument or a judicial opinion further than law and logic dictate. As a result, she has consistently produced excellent, important articles that are published in top law journals. Here too, she has only one agenda: to follow ideas where they lead. She works out the problem before her in a clear, reasoned, and principled way, without ideological or political preconceptions.

An important characteristic of Amy's scholarship is a lucid, elegant prose that will serve her equally well when she crafts judicial opinions. But the characteristic of her work that shines brightest is Amy's absolute dedication to the rule of law. She considers it America's foundational constitutional commitment to resolve legal disputes in a principled and consistent way. She will put that commitment into practice as a judge.

Amy is also a generous colleague. Indeed, we are hard-pressed to imagine anyone who could be more congenial and constructive. She constantly gives her scarce time to discuss scholarly projects and classroom challenges. She spends many hours reading and commenting on colleagues' articles. We can turn to her for prudent and constructive advice on any issue, large or small, assured of her unfailing support, time, and sage judgment.

Amy's presence is most valuable, however, when we disagree. You can be sure that she has keenly listened and fairly considered a position different from her own and responded in a helpful and constructive way. Such collegiality, wisdom, and sound judgment are critical qualities in any judge, but especially on a multi-member court like a court of appeals. As a judge, Amy will build bridges and strive to achieve consensus, which is the surest footing for law.

Being a law professor is demanding work, and to succeed in the profession as Amy has, a professor needs great energy, discipline, and commitment. But any picture of Amy that captures only her professional life is incomplete by half. Family comes first; Amy is a loving spouse and devoted mother of seven children (ages 5-16). She is personable and funny, she lives a full life outside the Law School, and she truly cares for others. She will understand the impact of her decisions on the people who stand in the courtroom before her—people who seek a fair hearing and a just solution for the legal problems that they face.

In short, Amy is a role model for all of us, and will be a model of the fair, impartial, and sympathetic judge.

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We end as we began, by emphasizing our diverse backgrounds and views. As in any intellectual community, we disagree about many things. It is always tempting to emphasize those disagreements and to give in to the emotions of the moment. Despite our differences, we unanimously agree that our constitutional system depends upon an independent judiciary staffed by talented people devoted to the fair and impartial administration of the rule of law. And we unanimously agree that Amy is such a person. It is our country's great fortune that Amy Coney Barrett has stepped forward to serve, and we urge her expeditious confirmation to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Sincerely yours,



Roger P. Alford  
Associate Dean for International and Graduate  
Programs & Professor of Law



Matthew J. Barrett  
Professor of Law



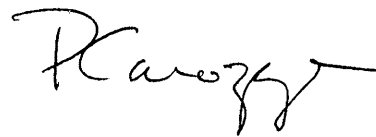
Anthony J. Bellia, Jr.  
O'Toole Professor of Constitutional Law



Patricia L. Bellia  
William J. and Dorothy K. O'Neill  
Professor of Law



Margaret F. Brinig  
Fritz Duda Family Chair in Law



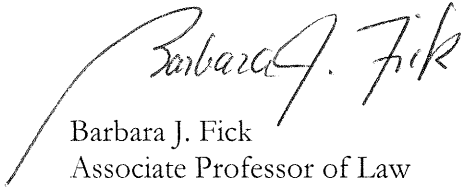
Paolo G. Carozza  
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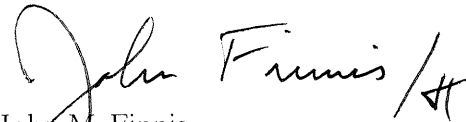
Douglass Cassel  
Notre Dame Presidential Fellow &  
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Barry Cushman  
John P. Murphy Foundation Professor of Law



Barbara J. Fick  
Associate Professor of Law



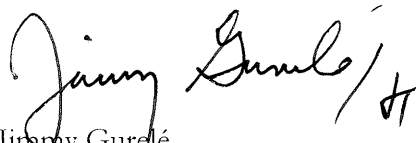
John M. Finnis  
Biochini Family Professor of Law



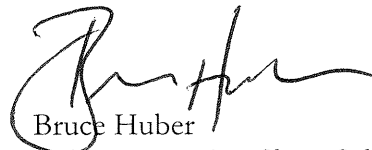
Nicole Stelle Garnett  
John P. Murphy Foundation Professor  
of Law



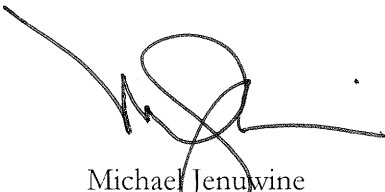
Richard Garnett  
Paul J. Schierl/Fort Howard Corporation  
Professor



Jimmy Gurdé  
Professor of Law



Bruce Huber  
Robert & Marion Short Scholar &  
Professor of Law



Michael Jenuwine  
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Daniel B. Kelly  
Professor of Law



James J. Kelly, Jr.  
Clinical Professor of Law



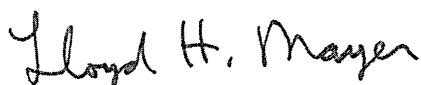
Michael Kirsch  
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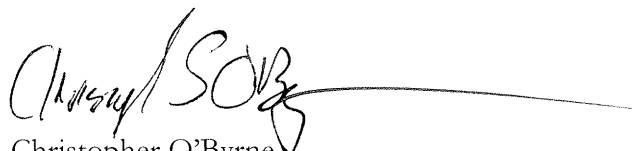
Marah Stith McLeod  
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John Nagle  
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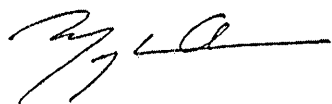


Christopher O'Byrne  
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Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein

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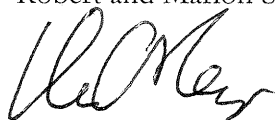
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Mary Ellen O'Connell  
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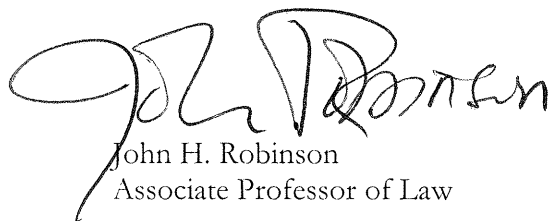
Patricia A. O'Hara  
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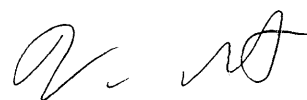
Kevin O'Rear  
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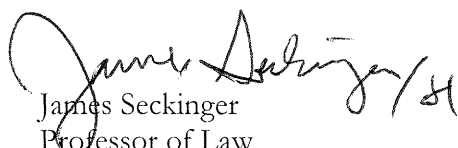
Jeffrey Pojanowski  
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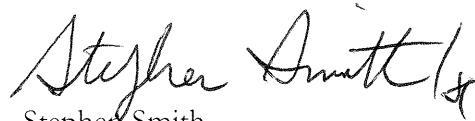
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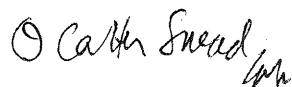
Veronica Root  
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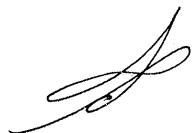
Stephen Smith  
Professor of Law



O. Carter Snead  
Professor of Law



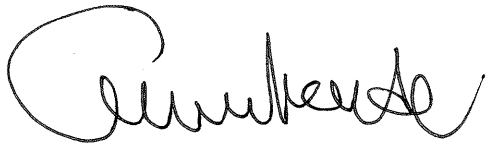
Jay Tidmarsh  
Judge James J. Clynes, Jr., Professor of Law



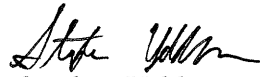
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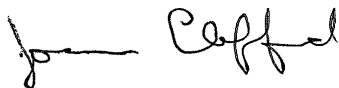
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