

November 9, 2005

The Honorable Bill Frist
 Majority Leader
 United States Senate
 509 Hart Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
 Minority Leader
 United States Senate
 528 Hart Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter
 Chairman
 Committee on the Judiciary
 United States Senate
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
 Ranking Member
 Committee on the Judiciary
 United States Senate
 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Frist, Minority Leader Reid, Chairman Specter, and Ranking Member Leahy:

We are former law clerks of Judge Samuel A. Alito, Jr. We are writing to urge the United States Senate to confirm Judge Alito as the next Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Our party affiliations and views on policy matters span the political spectrum. We have worked for members of Congress on both sides of the aisle and have actively supported and worked on behalf of Democratic, Republican and Independent candidates. What unites us is our strong support for Judge Alito and our deep belief that he will be an outstanding Supreme Court Justice.

Judge Alito's qualifications are well known and beyond dispute. Judge Alito graduated from Princeton University and Yale Law School. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Alito had a distinguished legal career at the Department of Justice, which culminated in his appointment as the U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey. Judge Alito has served on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit for 15 years and has more judicial experience than any Supreme Court nominee in more than 70 years. During his time on the bench, Judge Alito has issued hundreds of opinions, and his extraordinary intellect has contributed to virtually every area of the law.

As law clerks, we had the privilege of working closely with Judge Alito and saw firsthand how he reviewed cases, prepared for argument, reached decisions, and drafted opinions. We collectively were involved in thousands of cases, and it never once appeared to us that Judge Alito had pre-judged a case or ruled based on political ideology. To the contrary, Judge Alito meticulously and diligently applied controlling legal authority to the facts of each case after full and careful consideration of all relevant legal arguments. It is our uniform experience that Judge Alito was guided by his profound respect for the Constitution and the limited role of the judicial branch. Where the Supreme Court or the Third Circuit had spoken on an issue, he applied that precedent faithfully and fairly. Where Congress had spoken, he gave the statute its

commonsense reading, eschewing both rigid interpretations that undermined the statute's clear purpose and attempts by litigants to distort the statute's plain language to advance policy goals not adopted by Congress. In short, the only result that Judge Alito ever tried to reach in a case was the result dictated by the applicable law and the relevant facts.

Our admiration for Judge Alito extends far beyond his legal acumen and commitment to principled judicial decision-making. As law clerks, we experienced Judge Alito's willingness to consider and debate all points of view. We witnessed the way in which Judge Alito treated everyone he encountered – whether an attorney at oral argument, a clerk, an intern, a member of the court staff, or a fellow judge – with utmost courtesy and respect. We were touched by his humility and decency. And we saw his absolute devotion to his family.

In short, we urge that Judge Alito be confirmed as the next Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

Sincerely,

/s/ R. Alexander Acosta

R. Alexander Acosta
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1994-95

/s/ Scott Bovino

Scott Bovino
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1993-94

/s/ Jeffrey S. Bucholtz

Jeffrey S. Bucholtz
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1996-97

/s/ A. Michael Covino

A. Michael Covino
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1991-92

/s/ Monica P. Dolin

Monica P. Dolin
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1993-94

/s/ C. Frederick Beckner III

C. Frederick Beckner III
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1994-95

/s/ John W. Brewer

John W. Brewer
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1992-93

/s/ Adam Ciongoli

Adam Ciongoli
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1995-96

/s/ Nora V. Demleitner

Nora V. Demleitner
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1992-93

/s/ Dana S. Douglas

Dana S. Douglas
Clerk for Judge Alito, 2001-02

/s/ Conor Dugan

Conor Dugan
Clerk for Judge Alito, 2003-04

/s/ Paul C. Gluckow

Paul C. Gluckow
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1995-96

/s/ Craig Gottlieb

Craig Gottlieb
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1994-95

/s/ Paul M. Hauge

Paul M. Hauge
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1995-96

/s/ James A. Hunter

James A. Hunter
Clerk for Judge Alito, 2004-05

/s/ James Killmond

James Killmond
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1999-2000

/s/ Keith Levenberg

Keith Levenberg
Clerk for Judge Alito, 2002-03

/s/ David Loretto

David Loretto
Clerk for Judge Alito, 2002-03

/s/ Amber Spencer Madsen

Amber Spencer Madsen
Clerk for Judge Alito, 2002-03

/s/ Thomas A. Gentile

Thomas A. Gentile
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1996-97

/s/ James A. Gonica

James A. Gonica
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1990-91

/s/ Mitu Gulati

Mitu Gulati
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1996-97

/s/ Katherine K. Huang

Katherine K. Huang
Clerk for Judge Alito, 2000-01

/s/ Jay T. Jorgensen

Jay T. Jorgensen
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1997-98

/s/ Michael S. Lee

Michael S. Lee
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1998-99

/s/ Clark B. Lombardi

Clark B. Lombardi
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1999-2000

/s/ Joan M. Macaulay

Joan M. Macaulay
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1996-97

/s/ Michael Martinez

Michael Martinez
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1998-99

/s/ David C. McPhie

David C. McPhie
Clerk for Judge Alito, 2003-04

/s/ David Moore

David Moore
Clerk for Judge Alito, 2000-01

/s/ Christopher J. Paoella

Christopher J. Paoella
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1999-2000

/s/ Michael R. Potenza

Michael R. Potenza
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1998-99

/s/ Gary M. Rubman

Gary M. Rubman
Clerk for Judge Alito, 2000-01

/s/ Matthew A. Schwartz

Matthew A. Schwartz
Clerk for Judge Alito, 2003-04

/s/ Hannah Clayson Smith

Hannah Clayson Smith
Clerk for Judge Alito, 2001-02

/s/ Cheryl M. Stanton

Cheryl M. Stanton
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1997-98

/s/ David J. Stoll

David J. Stoll
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1991-92

/s/ Geoffrey J. Michael

Geoffrey J. Michael
Clerk for Judge Alito, 2000-01

/s/ Maureen Nakly

Maureen Nakly
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1998-99

/s/ Michael H. Park

Michael H. Park
Clerk for Judge Alito, 2001-02

/s/ Katherine L. Pringle

Katherine L. Pringle
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1993-94

/s/ Mark Schuman

Mark Schuman
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1991-92

/s/ Nathan C. Sheers

Nathan C. Sheers
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1992-93

/s/ John M. Smith

John M. Smith
Clerk for Judge Alito, 2001-02

/s/ Michael A. Stein

Michael A. Stein
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1990-91

/s/ Susan Sullivan

Susan Sullivan
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1990-91

/s/ William Taft

William Taft
Clerk for Judge Alito, 2004-05

/s/ Jeffrey N. Wasserstein

Jeffrey N. Wasserstein
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1997-98

/s/ Michael Yaeger

Michael Yaeger
Clerk for Judge Alito, 2004-05

/s/ John Tortorella

John Tortorella
Clerk for Judge Alito, 1999-2000

/s/ Jack White

Jack White
Clerk for Judge Alito. 2003-04

cc: Senator Orrin G. Hatch
Senator Charles E. Grassley
Senator Jon Kyl
Senator Mike DeWine
Senator Jeff Sessions
Senator Lindsey Graham
Senator John Cornyn
Senator Sam Brownback
Senator Tom Coburn
Senator Edward M. Kennedy
Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Senator Herb Kohl
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Russell D. Feingold
Senator Charles E. Schumer
Senator Richard J. Durbin