

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

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Clerk for Judge Alito, 2002-03

/s/ Thomas A. Gentile

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

/s/ James A. Goniea

James A. Goniea  
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

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Clerk for Judge Alito, 1991-92

/s/ Nathan C. Sheers

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

/s/ John M. Smith

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Clerk for Judge Alito, 2001-02

/s/ Michael A. Stein

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

/s/ Susan Sullivan

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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

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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