

June 9, 2013

Chairman Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member Chuck Grassley
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

NFCRC Supports Patricia Ann Millett's Nomination to the D.C. Circuit

Dear Senators Leahy and Grassley:

The National Family Civil Rights Center ("NFCRC") wishes to express its strong support for the confirmation of Patricia Ann Millett to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. We urge the members of the Judiciary Committee to advance confirmation to the full Senate and to vote "yes" on her confirmation.

Ms. Millett will be an excellent addition to the Circuit. We draw the Committee's attention to the "Unanimously Well Qualified" rating Nominee Millett received from the American Bar Association, together with the endorsements she has received from seven former United States Solicitor Generals. Further, in Ms. Millett's appellate practice, she has argued thirty two cases in the Supreme Court of the United States, thirty-five cases in the D.C. Circuit to which she has been nominated, eleven cases in other circuit courts of appeals, and several cases in state appellate courts. This experience equips Ms. Millett with the requisite expertise to handle the important legal issues which come before the D.C. Circuit, including cases involving issues of constitutional law, civil rights, and civil procedure, which are important to NFCRC's members.

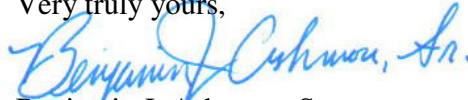
We also highlight Ms. Millett's achievements in the legal community. She has been honored as one of America's 100 Most Influential Lawyers by The National Journal and she presently serves by appointment in a number of prominent legal associations and commissions, such as the Supreme Court Fellows Commission, where she was appointed by the Chief Justice of the United States, Hon. John G. Roberts, Jr. Ms. Millett is also committed to her community and the next generation of attorneys, serving for years in roles as diverse as Adjunct Professor of legal writing at advocacy at the George Washington University School of Law to volunteering in her church and at local homeless and domestic violence survivor shelters. We also highlight Ms. Millett's personal connection to the military as the spouse of a retired U.S. Naval officer which is important considering the military and defense issues that arise in the D. C. Circuit which affect military families.



Finally, President Obama has commendably nominated an exceptionally experienced and qualified individual to the D.C. Circuit, which is currently operating with almost one third of its congressionally mandated seats vacant. However, according to the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, “the caseload per active judge on the D.C. Circuit has risen more than 50 percent since 2005.” We urge the committee to quickly advance Ms. Millett’s nomination to the full Senate and act as expeditiously as possible to work with the President to fill the remaining vacancies. While all of the Circuit Courts of Appeals are important, the D.C. Circuit has jurisdiction over nationally significant and complex cases, with exclusive jurisdiction over cases on environmental regulations, voting rights, and it is the Court which most closely adjudicates federal agency actions on issues that impact the civil rights of American families.

We ask that you support the nomination of Patricia Ann Millett and vote “yes” in Committee and on her confirmation. Thank you for your consideration and if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Benjamin J. Ashmore, Sr.
President and Chairman